

# JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

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THE SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH  
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JOURNAL  
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VOLUME 38 No. 690 DECEMBER 1956

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SURVEY OF SPONTANEOUS CASES

The plans described in the 'Journal' for September (pp. 337-9) are now being put into effect. Details have been sent to the press, question forms are being distributed, and every opportunity is being taken to give suitable publicity to the scheme.

In order to obtain as many cases as possible, the Council hope that members in the United Kingdom will not only send in accounts of their own experiences but will persuade their friends to do likewise. Question forms for this purpose may be obtained from the Secretary of the Society, 31 Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1. As already stated, the object is to obtain recent cases of apparitions, premonitions, and other kindred phenomena occurring spontaneously. 'Physical' phenomena (e.g. poltergeists) do not fall within the scope of the enquiry, nor do phenomena relating to mediumship.

Cases submitted will be examined and classified and, where necessary, further information will be sought. All cases received will be regarded as confidential, and no details will be published without permission.

Members resident in the United States, Canada, and the West Indies may communicate with the American Society for Psychical Research, 880 Fifth Avenue, New York 21, N.Y., which is conducting a parallel enquiry, and those in Europe with Mr G. Zorab, Verdstraat 32, The Hague, Holland, Chairman of an International Committee which is also taking part.

CLOUD BUSTING  
A CLAIM INVESTIGATED  
BY DENYS PARSONS

1. *Dr Rolf Alexander's Approach to the Society*

IN October 1955 the Society received a letter from Dr Rolf Alexander, M.D., of Paignton, Devon, in which he offered to give a demonstration of the 'ability of the human will to produce an effect upon a target at a distance.' He claimed that, on a clear day with a gentle or moderate wind, he could disintegrate a cumulus cloud while control clouds on either side of it remained unchanged. He enclosed a cutting from a Canadian newspaper relating to a demonstration at Orillia, Ontario.

Here was a definite and unambiguous claim which could be tested without much difficulty, and I considered that it deserved a full investigation. Since Dr Alexander was living at Paignton, I invited the co-operation of Lt-Col H. C. E. Routh, a member of the Society living not far from there.

2. *The Paignton Demonstration*

On the morning of 28 October a demonstration took place in the presence of Lt-Col Routh, a local photographer, and representatives of the *Western Morning News* and *Torbay Herald & Express*. Lt-Col Routh's cousin, who is in the Observer Corps, was present for the latter part of the experiment. The session was judged to be inconclusive. A short account appeared in the *Torbay Herald & Express* on the same afternoon.

Lt-Col Routh kindly expressed himself willing to arrange further tests but favourable cloud conditions did not present themselves.

3. *The Meeting at Hampstead Heath*

On 30 October Dr Alexander planned to give a demonstration of cloud dissipation (nicknamed 'cloud busting') at the Observatory on Hampstead Heath to members of the Hampstead Scientific Society, and by courtesy of the Secretary, I was able to attend as an observer. Here I met Dr Alexander. A New Zealander by birth, aged 65, he claims to be much travelled, and speaks with a Canadian accent.

The sky was completely overcast and judged to be unsuitable for tests. (Dr Alexander says he is unable to pierce a hole in a



continuous cloud layer.) The party of thirty or so bystanders, which included pressmen and television film cameramen, crowded into the tiny observatory building to hear an address by Dr Alexander on 'Creative Realism', as he calls it. His theme was that his new discovery had far-reaching implications for science and religion, for meteorology and psychical research. I asked Dr Alexander how many successful demonstrations of cloud busting he had given, and he replied 'Over 500'. (In a letter he later explained that only four of the demonstrations had been public ones.)

A member of the Hampstead Scientific Society then said: 'I understand you claim to be able to discharge a charged electro-scope.' Dr Alexander replied: 'Yes, that is so.' 'Well, I have an electro-scope here. Are you willing to give a demonstration?' 'Well, er . . . Yes, but mind you I have only done it once and I don't know if I can do it again; this must be purely experimental.' The electro-scope was taken outside, placed on a low table, and given a charge. Dr Alexander sat six feet from it and concentrated his gaze and attention on it. Nothing happened. A further effort a minute or two later was also unsuccessful.

#### 4. *Checking References*

As winter was setting in, I wrote to Dr Alexander suggesting that further field tests should be postponed until the spring, and he agreed. I asked if he would meanwhile be kind enough to refer me to the scientists of the XYZ Aircraft Corporation in the United States who (he had said at Hampstead) had become convinced of his powers and had put in hand a programme of secret tests on their own account, and to any other scientifically qualified witnesses. Dr Alexander referred me to Mr J. F. Strickler, Jr., Assistant Vice-President in charge of Engineering at XYZ<sup>1</sup> Aircraft, to the General Manager of a chain of department stores in Canada, to a museum curator holding a doctorate, and to a 'prominent Real Estate operator' in Illinois.

Mr Strickler wrote on 23 November 1955: 'While I have never witnessed Dr Alexander's demonstrations personally, many of my friends and I, personally, have conducted such experiments with very gratifying results.' He went on to enquire where he could get a pair of spectacles for seeing the human 'aura', and to seek information about the diagnosis of illness by radiesthesia, for which he had acquired some equipment. On 23 January 1956 Mr Strickler wrote me the letter which is quoted in full below.

<sup>1</sup> At the request of Mr Strickler, the name of the well-known aircraft company has been suppressed.

I want to apologize for the long delay in sending you the information I promised you regarding our experiments with cloud dissipation. The people involved in these experiments have been so busy on other assignments, as well as out of town, I have not been able to get together as nearly as complete a report as I would like ; however, here are a few details for your files. The following is quoted from a brief report from one of the engineers involved :

As a result of interest among a group of associates of whom I am one, considerable time and thought has been spent on the general subject of psychophysical investigations. Several of us have read Rolf Alexander's 'Creative Realism', and have attempted to carry out the cloud demonstrations described therein.

On 2 June 1955, a slow motion picture was taken of clouds during a period of 'concentrated will to destruction'. In all three experiments the indicated cloud disappeared while surrounding clouds remained or grew.

Other experiments made in June and July by a total of fifteen people reported success. The fifteen people are divided into two types of categorizations, neither of which adequately describes the people involved.

<i>Degrees held</i>	<i>No. of Degrees</i>	<i>No. of people</i>
Ph.D., M.A., B.S.	3	1
M.S., B.S.	4	2
B.S.	3	3
B.A.	3	3
B.B.A., B.M.E.	2	1
None or unknown	0	5
	<hr/> 15	<hr/> 15

Techniques varied from picking the only cloud in the sky and 'willing' it out of existence to 'burning' a hole through a cloud looking through a paper tube at one point. All of the techniques appeared to work, but no extensive analysis was made.

Subsequent to the above series of trials, efforts have been concentrated on an attempt to find some phenomenon more susceptible to laboratory control than cloud dissipation. There are no plans at present to return to this investigation.

I wish to re-emphasise that to my knowledge, none of the people found reason to *conclude scientifically* that there is a cause and effect relationship between 'will power' and cloud dissipation.

In addition to the above, the following is a report of another engineer having a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering which should be of interest to you.

These experiments started in the summer of 1955. The first experiment was made on a large cumulus surrounded on all sides by



other heavy cumuli. I did nothing but stare at the cloud and 'wished' it gone. No activity occurred for approximately 6 minutes ; at this time it began to thin around the edges, and at the end of 15 minutes was gone except for some whispiness. The surrounding clouds were still there, virtually unchanged except for location horizontally, as the whole mass had moved from west to east about 10 degrees. One witness was present.

From then on, at every opportunity, I practised 'cloud busting' and discovered my individual optimum method ; this was to look carefully at the cloud to be 'busted' fixing its image in my mind, then closing my eyes and visualizing the cloud. The next step was to visualize the cloud disintegrating from the inside out, as if I were at the center starting a chain reaction which breaks up each molecule of water vapor into its component gaseous elements. This method seems to work very well, and I became quite casual about the whole thing, 'busting' a cloud here and a cloud there at random, even while driving or doing other things. With practice, the time for complete disintegration dropped in many cases to as low as 20 seconds. In no case had there been any feeling of having to put out any undue effort.

One odd effect that showed up was the ability to apparently cause disintegration of the cloud starting with any portion of the cloud, such as the upper right hand edge. This worked virtually 100% of the time. It should be noted that my two children (girl, 12 ; boy, 9) became quite adept also.

You will recall in my letter of November 23rd, I informed you that I have personally worked on cloud dissipation with apparent success ; although my experiments were not rigorous in a scientific sense, the time for dissipation varied from 8 minutes down to 90 seconds. There appears to be some improvement with practice. My 15 year old son has also experimented with this phenomenon with apparent success.

In summarizing the cloud dissipation experiments which we have conducted, there *appear* to be psychokinetic phenomena involved, but our work to date has not been controlled carefully enough to state categorically that a cause and effect relationship actually exists—at least we have not performed enough experiments under controlled conditions to get quantitative results as regards to time required for dissipation with and without psychokinesis.

Unfortunately, these people are so busy at their current work assignments, in their various positions, that they are unable to give further time to the study of this phenomenon at present. I hope that the above summary will be of some value to you.

Very truly yours,

J. F. STRICKLER, JR.

The chain store General Manager wrote on 15 December 1955 that Dr Alexander had given private demonstrations to himself and his wife who were both convinced that he had disintegrated clouds

'on each occasion' in from five to seven minutes. The Manager had carried out the same experiment successfully himself though not with 100 per cent success. He, in turn, referred me to the Production Manager of Orillia Radio Station, Mr Pete McGarvey.

Mr McGarvey confirmed the press account of the Orillia demonstration which he said completely convinced him. Forty or fifty people had been present including the Mayor. 'No one was present who could be considered a qualified meteorologist.' Dr Alexander had also demonstrated successfully to Mr McGarvey in private on previous occasions. Mr McGarvey went on: 'I have also witnessed demonstrations by a chiropractor from Kitchener, Ontario, who had been much interested in Dr Alexander's philosophy. Mr Dave Jensen, employed by the *Orillia News-Letter* . . . also mastered the technique involved, and I understand gave several demonstrations for his friends.'

The Real Estate operator, Mr W. Dale McLaughlin, wrote that his interest stemmed from 'a pretty thorough grounding in psychology at the University of Iowa and Northwestern University, and a lifelong interest in parapsychology'. He referred to successful demonstrations by Dr Alexander in Mexico City, in particular one which he himself photographed: 'It was a tremendous cloud. It was completely disintegrated in 12 minutes. What made it so graphically clear was the fact that while the "target" cloud was being disintegrated, clouds surrounding the "target" cloud were building up.' Mr McLaughlin was kind enough to send me prints of this episode, and they are also reproduced in Dr Alexander's book. But from these it appears that the target cloud was framed between two leafy trees which screened a substantial portion of the surrounding sky from observation.

Mr McLaughlin had seen other demonstrations by Dr Alexander in Canada at which 'several technical and professional men were present'. In a later letter he wrote: 'It may not come during the life of Rolf Alexander, but sometime he will be referred to in the mental and physical sciences as are Einstein and Pasteur in their respective fields.'

The museum curator mentioned above did not reply to my enquiry. The American Society for Psychical Research has nothing about Dr Alexander on its files.

### *5. Alleged Interest of Official Bodies*

In February 1956 it came to my attention by chance that Dr Alexander had written to a correspondent of his claiming that the Foreign Office, the National Research Foundation, and B.O.A.C. had 'shown great interest'.



There is no such body as the National Research Foundation—it turned out that Dr Alexander meant the National Physical Laboratory; he told me that he had been in touch with a Mr L. H. McDermott there. I telephoned Mr McDermott who said that his contact with Dr Alexander was limited to writing him one letter to the effect that the matter fell 'quite outside the scope of the Laboratory's activity, and that therefore his proposals could not be entertained.' In contrast to the report on this encounter to his other correspondent about 'great interest' at N.P.L., Dr Alexander wrote me that he had received from the Laboratory 'the usual "brush-off" treatment'.

Similarly, the 'great interest' of the Foreign Office turned out to be an exchange of letters privately with a member of the staff who wrote in answer to my enquiry: 'I have been in touch with Dr Alexander and am aware of his cloud dissipation theories. My contact with him has been entirely unofficial, but it did seem to me that he had much information that could be of interest to the Government, but as a result of subsequently trying to pin him down to hard facts I have rather come to doubt this.'

The Operations Department of British Overseas Airways Corporation wrote: 'This department has had no dealings whatsoever with Dr Alexander and I have approached several other departments of the Corporation without success. It is possible, however, that Dr Alexander has spoken to an individual member of the Corporation and, perhaps naturally, it is possible that he was told that the project was "interesting"'.

## 6. *Further Correspondence with Dr Alexander*

I began to wonder whether we should get anywhere, but I continued to write to Dr Alexander in a friendly vein. I suggested that with the approach of summer weather we should arrange an adequate test of his cloud busting claim. Dr Alexander wrote that he would be coming to London in May. 'I shall come up for a week or ten days . . . to properly get the feel of things. We shall consult the Met. People before selecting a day, then we shall alert the press and others to stand by. . . . This demonstration will be shortly in advance of the publication . . . of the British edition of my book.'<sup>1</sup> He asked if I knew of a comfortable hotel near Hampstead Heath. I found him one.

A press conference staged to give publicity to a book is not an

<sup>1</sup> *The Power of the Mind: the system of Creative Realism*, by Rolf Alexander, M.D. (Werner Lawrie, 1958.). The book contains only a six-page Appendix (with photographs) on cloud busting. The text proper consists of essays on mental self-discipline.

auspicious occasion for a scientific test. I replied to Dr Alexander : 'I do not think the Society would be interested in a demonstration to the Press and others, unless there was a well-designed plan for the experiment arranged in advance. It should not be difficult to design an adequate test. The main thing would be to arrange for the "target" and control clouds to be chosen by a bias-free random method. If you would like me to look into this I will do so. It would of course be far preferable to do any tests in the absence of press and publicity men.'

This offer elicited three pages of typescript from Dr Alexander, from which I quote:

To be of any value, such a demonstration would have to be observed by two or three well known scientists, and a report signed by them would have to be released to me. In short, I am not interested at this stage in 'pure research'. . . . Any demonstrations given by me, frankly, are for the purpose of demonstrating the validity of the basic concepts of the philosophy I have evolved over the past forty years, and it must be made public to be of any value. . . . Now more than forty years of work, and probably a quarter of a million pounds of my own hard-earned money has gone into the discoveries that I have tied into a demonstrable system. I have tried to interest 'science' but for the most part, scientists appear to be mere 'accountants of phenomena' and those who launch the projects—and hold the purse-strings—apparently cannot be influenced except through public clamour. And as there are a lot of things which only I can say, and as at sixty-five one cannot afford the luxury of patience, I intend quite frankly to use the approach of publicity.

Other points made in the same letter were (1) that psychical research as practised by the S.P.R. and others has no practical value, while the cloud experiment demonstrates for the first time a measurable effect of mind at a distance. (2) 'You know of course that the Russians have been using the technique of "telecoercion" for some years. The defections of so many of our key people are probably due to this.' Dr Alexander went on to say that he had offered the Foreign Office a demonstration of 'telesuasion' in Cyprus, in order to bring Makarios into a co-operative frame of mind, but that this offer had been rejected.

I shall comment on only one point in the letter. It is difficult to see how a quarter of a million pounds could be spent on cloud busting and silent meditation which seem to be the basis of Dr Alexander's system.

In my reply to this letter I told Dr Alexander that it was the custom of the British Press to ridicule the unorthodox, and that anyhow scientists would not be swayed by press reports. I concluded : 'Summing up, I can and am very willing to arrange



scientific tests ; if these are successful they will be brought to the attention of eminent men. It is a waste of time to invite scientists to attend a demonstration primarily intended for publicity for a book.'

Back came a further three pages of typescript, from which I will only quote the following remark : 'And if the English meteorologists know as little about quantum mechanics as the Canadians, I don't think their observations would be very important. . . .' He concluded with an offer of tests provided that the scientists reported them objectively without hedging or 'pussyfooting'.

At this stage I put the relevant correspondence before the President of the Society asking whether he thought it worth going further. Mr Lambert suggested that I should do nothing further until after the press demonstration.

### 7. *The Demonstration to 'Illustrated'*

Dr Alexander's visit to London was arranged for the first week in May. He had signed a contract committing himself to give exclusive demonstrations for the weekly magazine *Illustrated*. Knowing how misleading unplanned tests might be, I brooded about the matter during the days scheduled for the tests, but could not think of any useful action I could take.

In the nick of time I remembered that one of the staff photographers of *Illustrated* was a friend of mine. I telephoned and asked whether he had been assigned to the cloud busting feature. He had indeed, and told me that he had been photographing cloud busting on that day (3 May) and on the previous day up at Hampstead Heath. The morrow was to be the final day. He and his writer colleague had been completely convinced of the truth of Dr Alexander's claims—so had an I.T.A. television film team who had been shooting cine film of the tests. I asked who the observers were and he replied that they had a general practitioner and that the following day they hoped to have a well-known chaplain. *Illustrated* proposed to give Dr Alexander and his book a big boost on the following Wednesday.

I put it to my photographer friend that, with great respect, neither he, nor I, nor a general practitioner, nor the august chaplain were qualified to judge the success of an experiment in cloud disintegration—that this was clearly the province of the meteorologist. In 45 minutes telephone conversation I was unable to shake his confidence in his own judgment. At the end, however, he agreed that the cachet of a meteorologist would lend authority to the article that was being prepared. Accordingly I advised him

to get in touch with the Department of Meteorology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology.

### 8. *The Meteorologist's Report*

I telephoned the *Illustrated* photographer again the following evening to see what had happened. He had contacted Dr R. S. Scorer of Imperial College, a well-known authority on the behaviour of cumulus clouds, and arrangements had been quickly made to test Dr Alexander that morning on the roof of the Huxley Building. On the way to the meeting-place Dr Alexander told the *Illustrated* representatives how pleased he was that a scientist had been persuaded to take an interest. At my request Dr Scorer kindly wrote an account of what happened on the afternoon of 4 May in a letter which is reproduced in full below.<sup>1</sup>

Department of Meteorology,  
Imperial College of Science and  
Technology, London, S.W. 7  
8 May, 1956

Dear Mr Parsons,

The following is my brief interpretation of what happened when Dr Alexander was brought to the College on the afternoon of 4 May, 1956 for me to see whether his claims about clouds were acceptable.

He claimed that he could cause any chosen cloud to disappear before any two other 'control' clouds which were of comparable size. His method was to stare at the chosen cloud. In the first test the cloud at which he was staring was the last of the three to disappear: in the second test it was the second of the three. I saw nothing unusual about the behaviour of any of the clouds.

Apparently he only 'works' with fair weather cumulus, and clouds of this type usually disappear in 15-20 minutes anyway. The point of interest is that when such clouds disappear their place is usually taken by new ones of very similar appearance, and unless this fact is known it is quite easy for an untrained observer to believe that what is seen is still the same cloud. If one cloud is watched with careful concentration it can be seen that it does disappear and that the new growth is to one side.

If we assume that Dr Alexander was sincere and honest but misguided, then the simplest explanation of his behaviour is that when alone he has discovered that clouds of this type at which he looks intently disappear. When examining the rest of the sky, when he has finished, he finds that it looks very much the same as before and concludes that he has been responsible for the dissolution of the cloud. The experiment can be repeated over and over again on a suitable day.

<sup>1</sup> See also the monthly magazine *Weather* (October 1956) and the correspondence in the December issue.



I think that he is perhaps a little doubtful of his powers now because he made one or two remarks which suggested that he had watched clouds long enough to become a little acquainted with their properties which are well known to meteorologists. He became extremely insulting when I said after the experiments that I had seen nothing which gave cause to suspect any emanations from the mind such as he was claiming, and tried to use the fact that he possessed a D.Sc. as an argument.

I had photographs in my possession which illustrated the phenomenon for which he claimed to be responsible and the reporter was sufficiently impressed by these to be sceptical of Dr Alexander's ideas.

It is interesting that in the exchanges that we had he [Dr Alexander] refused to argue in terms of the ordinary physical concepts by which meteorologists interpret the behaviour of clouds, but only *by analogy* with branches of physics in which he did not seem particularly expert, namely electromagnetic theory and quantum mechanics. He knew enough of the jargon to make an impression of learnedness upon the layman.

He refers to the last fragment that remains of a cloud he has 'worked' upon as his 'signature'. This fact demonstrates that he has not a realistic idea of other peoples' intelligence. I hope this expression of my interpretation of what I saw is adequate for your purposes.

Yours sincerely,  
R. S. SCORER

*Illustrated* dropped the proposed article and I was (unofficially) warmly thanked for saving them from a serious blunder.

#### 9. Further Publicity for Dr Alexander

The I.T.A. television film team attended the demonstrations on May 2nd and 3rd, but were not present at the dénouement on May 4th. They took some speeded-up film of clouds disintegrating while Dr Alexander was concentrating. These were presented to viewers with almost religious solemnity as an item in a magazine programme entitled 'This Week' on 1 June 1956. The item included an interview in which Dr Alexander emphasised the transcendental importance of his work. Nothing was said by the interviewer or by the compère to indicate that any normal explanation was possible or that any criticism had been raised. I immediately enquired of the *Illustrated* photographer whether the I.T.A. team had earlier been informed about the tests by Dr Scorer and of *Illustrated's* decision to withdraw. They had.

As a result of the television item a short news paragraph appeared in the *Sunday Times* of 3 June, reporting the televising and appending an adverse comment by Dr Scorer. On 10 June *The Sunday Times* published a long letter from Dr Alexander concerning his cloud busting claims.

On 30 June *Picture Post* carried a 2½-page feature on Dr Alexander, with photographs taken on a Devon tor. The text, by Fyfe Robertson, contains one or two cautious remarks such as: 'Nothing I have seen adds up to the kind of proof which scientists can legitimately demand', but the writer describes how he was personally convinced by 'three beautiful demonstrations' and some other imperfect ones. No meteorologist or psychical researcher was invited to be present.

#### 10. *Further Routine Checks*

At this stage I felt prompted to make two further routine checks. I wrote again to Mr J. F. Strickler, Jr. of XYZ Aircraft Corporation to ask whether it was true, as Dr Alexander stated in letters to me, (1) that 'great organisations like Fisher Body Corporation and XYZ Aircraft' had made his book *Creative Realism* 'required reading for certain of their executive and engineering groups', (2) that XYZ Aircraft took an official interest in his claims, and (3) that 'many keen young scientists such as the members of the XYZ Group at Blank have transferred the Cloud Experiment indoors to the laboratory cloud chamber, etc., and they can be relied on to carry it forward. . . .' Mr Strickler replied as follows:

1. We have done no further work on 'cloud busting' since I last wrote you [i.e. on 23 January 1956].

2. XYZ Aircraft Corporation has never taken any *official* interest in this subject although several of us, as *individuals* have experimented with it in our spare time as outlined in my last letter to you. . . .

3. None of us have done any cloud chamber experiments. . . .

4. Dr Alexander's book *Creative Realism* has never been 'required reading' for any of our people. However, a number of our people have read the book from a purely personal interest standpoint.

There is no such company as Fisher Body Corporation, but an enquiry addressed to Fisher Body Division of General Motors Corporation in Detroit was answered by the General Director of Public Relations and Advertising Section as follows: 'Neither our Industrial Relations Department nor this one has ever heard of Dr Rolf Alexander's *Creative Realism*.'

#### 11. *Other Cloud Busters*

I do not propose to review the claims of weather-magicians in primitive communities, but Dr Alexander is not the only 'civilised' cloud buster. In an article 'People and Weather', Leslie Shepard writes: 'I think there are strong grounds for suspecting an unconscious influence on cloud dispersal. In my own case, the ability



was of great value, as my work of directing documentary films on location depended very much on selecting shooting days when sunshine was available.<sup>1</sup>

Shepard refers in his article to (1) Dr Alexander, (2) Dr Wilhelm Reich, who claimed to be able to bust clouds with an apparatus of hollow tubes connected with running water and pointed to the sky in a certain manner, (3) Mr Oscar Drummond of Reading, who, it was reported in the *Reading Standard* of 1 October 1948, 'attacked' the sky at Bognor between 3 and 9 August, stopping the pouring rain at about 9 o'clock each morning so that his friends could go out, and divided the clouds into three parts to obtain fine weather at Southsea on 5 August. Mr Drummond would not disclose his method except to say that 'His [Einstein's] ideas on time, space, and relativity coincide somewhat with my own facts; that man is sealed down in a dome-shaped sky, and he, being 90 per cent water, is one with the wet sky, physically. . . . If such were not the case, I could not destroy the clouds metaphysically.' (4) Mrs Judith L. Gee of London, who wrote to Shepard: 'My method is simplicity itself. It is the non-acceptance of clouds and rain. . . . So when I want sunshine, I just see the sun shining . . . the clouds parting and dispersing and blue skies triumphant.'

## 12. *The Explanation of Cloud Busting*

Dr Scorer's explanation of cloud busting is, I am convinced, the correct one: 'Clouds of this type usually disappear in 15-20 minutes anyway.' And, because of the properties of cloud formations, *the layman is not competent to set up and adjudicate a controlled experiment.*

Even without the expert's evidence there is 'internal' evidence that cumulus clouds pursue their natural self-effacing behaviour whether or not there are any psychic practitioners in the vicinity. Discounting Dr Alexander's wife, who is also adept, the chiropractor from Ontario, and what we might call the semi-professionals mentioned in Section 11, the reader will find in this report reference to 22 amateur cloud busters—in Strickler's letter alone 19 are mentioned ('A total of 15 people' . . . 'Another engineer' and his two children, and Strickler's son, aged 15). A letter from a twenty-third can be found in *Picture Post* of 7 July 1956, and in *Clips, Quotes, and Comments*<sup>2</sup> of 15 June 1955, we read:

<sup>1</sup> Published in the mimeographed periodical *Orgonomic Functionalism*, Vol. II, No. 4 (July 1955) pp. 219-28. (Ritter Press, 476 Woodborough Rd., Nottingham.)

<sup>2</sup> A fortnightly mimeographed bulletin published by the Borderland Sciences Research Associates, 3524 Adams Avenue, San Diego 16, California.

'... some half-dozen of our Associates have reported what seems to be highly favourable results from P K cloud experiments.' None of these people had been trained by Dr Alexander but saw or heard of his demonstrations and tried it themselves. If any Tom, Dick, or Harry can bust clouds, it is reasonable to draw the inference that 'there is nothing to it' in both senses of the phrase.

### 13. *Dr Alexander's Qualifications*

Dr Alexander claims to have qualified in medicine in Prague, to have done postgraduate work in analytical psychology, neurology, and biochemistry at various European Universities, and to have studied for six months as a personal pupil of the Greek-Russian philosopher Gurdjieff in 1913.

His claim, on the Huxley Building roof, to possess a Doctorate of Science, was heard and reported to me independently by Dr Scorer, by the *Illustrated* feature-writer, and by the *Illustrated* photographer. I fancy that Dr Alexander would find it difficult to prove that he has a D.Sc. ; he does not appear to have that insistence on accuracy of statement which would become ingrained, if it was not inborn, in any man who was able to attain such a distinction.

### 14. *Discussion*

It has seemed worth reporting this case at some length because it is typical of modern psychical research. The investigation was more straightforward than most in that a single, definite, unambiguous, verifiable claim was advanced. The claims are usually less definite and far less easily tested. The investigations follow much the same lines. As soon as tests are organised on a common-sense basis, the phenomena—commonly stated by the claimant to be 90 per cent reliable—begin to assume a spasmodic or sporadic character, or vanish altogether. Proof or disproof is virtually impossible, since the claimant invariably takes the view that whoever is not wholeheartedly for him is against him ; the investigation fizzles out on a sour note and is seldom worth writing up for publication.

Failures of this kind have sometimes been attributed by the claimants and their sympathisers to an arrogant or hostile attitude on the part of psychical researchers. The reader will, I hope, recognise the account he has just read as being the work of a patient plodder anxious to keep on good terms with everybody.



# ANTOINE RICHARD'S GARDEN: SOME FURTHER NOTES

BY G. W. LAMBERT, C.B.

SINCE the publication of my earlier notes on this subject in the *Journal* (37, 117 and 266; 38, 12) I have obtained some further information which should be placed on record, in so far as it amplifies or calls for amendment of statements which I have already made. It relates for the most part to details under two heads, as follows.

## THE RICHARD FAMILY

The Richards are usually referred to in sources as Richard père and Richard fils, the christian name not being given. Seeing a statement that Antoine Richard succeeded his father in 1782, I wrongly inferred that his father, Claude, died in that year (37, 209); and that Antoine, becoming père Richard thereafter, was the individual so described who died in 1784. In fact, old Richard retired from active work in 1782, and it was he, and not Antoine, who died in 1784. Antoine, who was born in 1735, lived till 1807. It was he who, by his moving appeals, saved the Trianon for posterity during the Revolution, at a time when it had been actually condemned to demolition. Thus Antoine's emotional connexion with the place was more profound and lasted much longer than I had supposed. In 1774 Claude, the old man, whose charge was the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, lived with his son in the Gardener's house at the Trianon, and anyone entering the Garden by the Gardener's Gate at the time would very likely have met those two in the green livery they wore then. It will be seen that in 1774 Antoine was a good deal younger than I supposed (38, 17). It may be that the old man seen by Miss Burrow, whose age appeared to be 'sixtyish' represented old Claude, whose age at the time was 69, whereas Antoine was only 39.

The assumption that the livery of both was in fact changed from green to red and blue soon after the death of Louis XV (38, 16), receives confirmation from a remark by Desjardins in *Le Petit Trianon*, which I had overlooked. He observes (p. 81 and n. 3) that at Versailles in Louis XVI's time 'tout le service'—which presumably means all the servants, indoor and outdoor—wore the King's livery, red, white, blue, and that at the Trianon 'la domesticité'—which presumably means the indoor servants only—wore the Queen's livery, red and silver. It is therefore to be inferred

that under Louis XVI the Gardeners at the Trianon, being outdoor servants, wore the King's livery, which seems to have been a red coat with blue facings and white stockings. In A, 5th edn., p. 55 there is a footnote 3 which gives faulty information and references. The colours of the King's and Queen's liveries are incorrectly stated. The mistakes appear to be due to the authors having confused together references to three different kinds of uniform, namely, (1) servant's livery ; which alone is at issue here, (2) court dress worn by guests at the Trianon, and (3) military uniform of guards.

#### THE CHAPEL MAN

Judging from Gabriel's plan, with no elevation before me, I thought it likely that a level way existed along the top of the passage from the kitchen block to the terrace on the west front of the House, along which the 'chapel man' could have come without going out of sight. I have now seen an elevation which shows that the passage had a sloping roof. There is a service door onto the Chapel terrace, but it is practically certain that in 1774 a person could not have got from that terrace on to the other on the level except by running along the coping of the wall. Even so, it would have been necessary to step up over a low parapet to get onto the terrace of the House. It could have been done by a servant accustomed to using that way as a short cut, when in a hurry.

It is perhaps worth noting that there is a project by Gabriel (not carried out) for a *covered* way from the House to the Chapel ; and evidence that at some date apparently later than 1774 the wooden pillars of the kitchen passage were strengthened as though for the purpose of taking extra weight overhead, perhaps of a passage way. It can be confidently assumed that the need for one was felt.

It has now been established that the broad way out of the French Garden, known as the 'Allée de la Ménagerie' in 1762, had been sealed off by 1774. Gabriel had contemplated its retention in his original plan, as I have said, but had to abolish it, in order to allow the kitchen block to be prolonged to the west. This was to satisfy a whim of the King, who wanted his dining-room equipped with 'flying tables', raised from the floor beneath. This last-minute change meant displacing the kitchen from the House into the service block, which had in consequence to be extended westwards across the line of the Allée. The loss of that way must have been a great inconvenience to the Gardener, but was doubtless an advantage from the point of view of the King and members of the



royal entourage, because it increased considerably the privacy of the French Garden. The seeing of a broad way out by the two visitors in 1901 cannot be explained in terms of the actual state of affairs at any particular time, or in terms of the presumed wishes of anybody, except perhaps the architect and the gardener.

#### THE KIOSK

I now think that in Miss Moberly's sketch (37, 152) she drew four pillars only, not five as I originally stated (37, 144). It looks as if there was a black screen inside the building, with daylight showing through between each vertical edge and the two pillars on the extreme right and left. (I mistook one streak of daylight for an extra pillar, seen in perspective.) According to the original description, there was a low wall or balustrade visible, not, unfortunately, shown in the sketch (37, 143).

In the centre of the maze in the Duke of Bedford's garden at Woburn Abbey (Bedfordshire) there is a Chinese pavilion, answering very closely to the description of the kiosk seen in the Trianon garden, which I saw for the first time in April 1955. Chambers, George III's architect, did some work in the garden at Woburn in 1770, but the woodwork of the pavilion seemed to me much too new to be about 185 years old. Yet the design looked very like one by Chambers. By the courtesy of Miss G. Scott-Thomson, the Archivist of the Russell family, I learned afterwards that the pavilion was erected in the early part of the nineteenth century, *after a design by Sir William Chambers*. The Woburn pavilion has eight pillars, with a low balustrade between each alternate pair of pillars. It stands on a low stepped plinth, and has four entrances on the steps of which a person could sit. Its general appearance is very much like that of a small bandstand, much more so than that of either of the Chambers designs reproduced as Figure 2 of my original paper (37, 149). It seems highly probable that Chambers had the design with him when he visited Versailles in 1774.

The black screen, if such it is meant to be, inside the kiosk, as sketched by Miss Moberly, looks like another Chambers device. In his Temple of the Winds, which still stands in Kew Gardens, he originally installed a black semi-cylindrical wind screen (no longer in place) which could be turned about so as to give shelter to anyone sitting in the Temple, from whatever direction the wind was blowing.

## GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

The new facts and considerations I have advanced seem to me to strengthen the case for believing that the visions seen were not the product of the unaided imaginations of the two percipients. The new information adds to the curious mixture of fact and fancy which we had already found. In so far as they reflect matters of fact, they point to a date not later than 1774. In so far as they reflect matters of fancy, they seem to be fancies which were entertained at that period of the history of the Trianon when the creators of it were still busily engaged in framing plans for its future. Even if the authors of A had read and forgotten far more about the period than they could recollect after the visits, it is in the highest degree unlikely that the details seen would have reflected aspects of the history of the place in which they were not interested. If, on the other hand, it is thought that, owing to the delay in recording the incidents, some material from later research became unwittingly worked into the descriptions, it is difficult to understand why such unconscious manipulation should have resulted in those descriptions being relevant to a phase of the Trianon's history they did not investigate. Very little is known about it during the last few years of Louis XV's reign, and from the point of view of discovering verification of details, a more unpromising period could hardly have been chosen.

If, then, we accept these visions as having the significance I have attached to them, they suggest that a scene, such as a garden, can only persist in a form recoverable years afterwards as a spectral image if it has entered into the experience of some person who was alive at the time to which the vision relates. That person, it seems, is likely to modify the details of the picture by suppressing elements with an uncongenial feeling tone, and introducing others which represent wish-fulfilments. I have already referred in this connexion to Professor Price's lecture 'Survival and the Idea of "Another World"' (*Proc.* 50, 1). It was delivered in 1952, before anyone had suggested that an explanation of the A case might be found in the experience of the gardener of the Petit Trianon. Professor Price was describing a theoretical image world, and said (p. 17) 'It would be dependent on the *memories* and *desires* of the persons who experienced it. Their memories and desires would determine what sort of images they had. . . . If one had been fond of . . . pleasant gardens in this life, the image-world one would create for oneself in the next might be expected to contain image replicas of such objects, and one would make these replicas as like the "real thing" as one's memories permitted; with the help,



perhaps, of telepathic influences from other minds whose tastes were similar.'

In what sort of a medium such images can persist, whether they imply the continued existence of the persons who formed them, and why the images are only seen on rare occasions by specially gifted individuals are questions which cannot be discussed here. But the evidence adduced does seem to suggest that in the experiences described there was some sort of contact with images representing the Trianon of about 1774, as Antoine Richard remembered it, but in some respects remoulded nearer to his heart's desire. For that reason I called this series 'Antoine Richard's Garden'.

In collecting the fresh details about the Richard family and the background of the 'Chapel man' incident I have received much valuable help from Mr and Mrs A. O. Gibbons, who have recently carried out researches both at the Petit Trianon and in the French state archives, and have generously shown me their notes and photographs.

## REVIEWS

CIBA FOUNDATION SYMPOSIUM ON EXTRASENSORY PERCEPTION.

Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and Elaine C. P. Millar.

London, Churchill, 1956. ix, 240 pp. 27s. 6d.

This is the record of the conference held in May 1955, and it contains a transcript of the discussions as well as the papers. Its value as well as its interest is thereby greatly increased, and it forms an indispensable volume for the serious student of psychical research as well as an excellent survey for the uninformed reader.

The new material, which alone makes the volume indispensable, is contained in the papers by Wassermann (who presents an outline of his field theory), Pratt (an unreported experiment on pigeon homing), and Langdon-Davies (a summary of results obtained with the outstanding subjects he discovered in Spain). Valuable surveys of material are given in the papers by Pobers (psi phenomena among primitive peoples), Dingwall (the simulation of telepathy), and Gillespie (ESP in the psychoanalytic situation). The remaining papers are chiefly concerned with logical analysis of the evidence as it now stands (McConnell, West, Fraser Nicol, Spencer Brown, Matthews), but include two excellent summaries of his own well-known research by Soal, and a more general, philosophical, paper by Amadou.

A feature of the conference was the attendance, by invitation, of a number of scientists from the biological field who have not previously been concerned with psychical research. The idea of cross-fertilization is an excellent one and it is clear from the discussion that both groups benefitted measurably, although on methodological questions it is my impression that the psychical researchers were considerably more sophisticated.

I shall not undertake a detailed examination of each paper but instead concentrate my remarks on the one or two that break new ground and on one or two themes that run throughout the papers and discussions. About the new experimental work of Pratt and Langdon-Davies there is nothing to be said except that it is extremely important and clearly demonstrates the great strides which have been made in the design of ESP experiments. There is no question but that the standards are now well above the average of those reported in psychological journals, and—where comparable in type—equal to the best.

Wassermann's paper is in a different category ; for while Pratt is still undecided as to the proper *interpretation* of his results (ESP or not ESP), and Langdon-Davies has not made any fine-structure discoveries in the analysis of his subjects' results, Wassermann has produced a candidate for the highest office in science—a theory not only of psi phenomena but of behaviour in general, and not only of behaviour but of biological structure and function. The material in his 20-page paper is only an outline of the theory, which is to be fully expanded in a forthcoming book, but certain comments can already be made. The basic idea is to extend the range of fields attached to material bodies of certain kinds. To the magnet with its attached field and the electrically charged or conducting body (etc.) we are to add the living organism and a variety of associated fields including the morphogenetic M-fields (p. 61), behavioural B-fields (which subdivide into sensory B-fields, motor B-fields, emotional B-fields, meaning B-fields etc. ; p. 66), and the psi-fields (p. 66). It is hoped that a precise mathematical account can be given of these fields which will enable a deduction of the observed phenomena in a way analogous to that originating with James Clerk Maxwell. Admirable though such an achievement would be and praiseworthy as Dr Wassermann's endeavour undoubtedly is, there are some reasons for thinking that the goal is further off than he believes.

To begin with, there is the question of economy. Dr Wassermann is fond of referring to his theory as 'an Ockham's razor' (pp. 70, 129), a piece of unattractive philosophical slang which presumably is intended to convey his belief that the theory reduces



the number of assumptions that have to be made (or concepts invoked?) in order to explain the observed phenomena. Now I have made a rough count of the explicit assumptions involved in Wassermann's exposition of his theory, and I find seventeen. Nor are these slight assumptions, since they include assertions as to the existence of six hitherto unknown types of field, restrictions on the energy-levels of the fields (p. 66), and complex assertions about the way in which brain-cells and fertilized ova are affected by various postulated fields (pp. 57, 62). It is with some surprise, therefore, that one finds on the last page of the paper the assertion that a theory has been sketched which will explain parapsychological phenomena 'in terms of a few simple hypotheses'.

The hypotheses are not only many and complex but they do not, I fear, show much sign of explaining anything. In the first place, and a great deal could be made of this point, the particular type of field theory adopted by Dr Wassermann, viz. a quantized field theory, is in a somewhat parlous condition even amongst physical phenomena; there are great difficulties of a logical as well as a practical kind which are thought by many (e.g. Pauli) to be insurmountable. It may not be wise to try jumping out of our frying-pan of reversed causes etc. into the fire of quantum field theory until we are sure the flames are cooler than the pan.

Even if the basic plan were entirely acceptable, however, there are good reasons for scepticism about the detailed manoeuvres. To put it briefly, Dr Wassermann is too easily deluded by his invocation of field language into imagining he has avoided the great difficulties that exist for any explanation of extrasensory phenomena. To take only one example of this: on page 66 we find the words 'thence the argument by Rhine (1953) and others that energy fields could not be responsible for telepathy, since their energy would become absorbed, falls to the ground.' But how does it fall to the ground? Because Dr Wassermann has stipulated that his psi-fields do not interact with matter.

Well, but must there not be some diminution of field strength as the field 'spreads out'? 'Of course, there will be attenuation of the psi-fields as we proceed from the excitation source' (p. 66). And how are we to detect psi-fields? By their effect on the percipient's behaviour-fields (p. 67). Now it is scarcely likely that Rhine wanted to deny that *if* there are fields which are not absorbed by matter, they might account for telepathy, *if* their rate of attenuation is not too rapid, and *if* they can nevertheless affect behaviour and/or thought processes. It would be quite wrong of me to suggest that there is no value in Dr Wassermann's demonstration of the logical possibilities of a field theory; but it is quite wrong of

Dr Wassermann to suggest that the difficulties for any physical account can be dismissed by the demonstration of a logical possibility. (In the case of his 'explanation' of precognition (pp. 69-70), I am even doubtful whether he has succeeded in giving a consistent description, and certainly the physical assumptions involved are staggering.)

The full extent of Dr Wassermann's failure to grasp the nature of the problems which he so confidently dismisses comes out in his discussion of teleology. 'The present theory', he says, 'can thus dispense with vitalistic "purposes" or "vital forces" or Bergson's "élan vital" and similar mysterious non-physical constructs' (p. 58). In the first place it does not, in the second it is doubtful whether its own constructs are less 'mysterious' and 'non-physical', and in the third there is nothing notable about such an achievement since it is a characteristic of all currently discussed theories of morphogenesis and behaviour of which I am aware. Dr Wassermann's theory does not dispense with these constructs because it does not deal with the evidence on which they are founded, although it purports to. The magic language of fields once more misleads: 'Energy transitions between M-fields and molecular matter fields will occur until the joint system reaches an equilibrium state which is conditioned by quantum-mechanical (i.e. statistical) considerations (Boltzmann's H-theorem). The steady state which is reached in this way (or the nearly steady state) represents the "goal" of organismic development and the process of reaching an almost steady state between M-field and molecular matter fields is therefore "goal directed"' (p. 58). This is as much an analysis of 'goal' as it is to say 'Every organism's goal is death'. The correspondence is indeed close since the state of total equilibrium required by the H-theorem can never be attained by an organism while alive; but Wassermann presumably intends to refer only to partial equilibrium. In that case, we face the awkward conclusion that *this* state is reached only in death or else at some earlier stage in life past which there can be nothing occurring relevant to the vitalist hypothesis; yet clearly the vitalists do not regard part of a man's life as relevant to their analysis and the rest as irrelevant—they are concerned with the phenomena of life *in toto*. The supposed analysis of 'goal' is hence inadequate to dismiss vitalism.

Moreover, the theory's own concepts are in some ways as mysterious (although here the book must be awaited before a final decision can be made). If the new fields interact with the fields we already know about, then there must be a detectable effect; if they do not, they are superfluous entities. It certainly is fre-

quently stated by Dr Wassermann that there are such interactions, and it is a necessary consequence of this that the conservation laws cannot apply to the fields we now know considered by themselves, any more than the conservation laws apply to an explosion if one ignores the energy of the detonator. Hence Dr Wassermann's theory is committed to the prediction that close study of neural energy levels will reveal a discrepancy which is due to M-fields and psi-fields. If this is not true, I cannot understand how the theory can be regarded as empirical, or indeed scientific, or indeed comprehensible. Yet Dr Wassermann makes it clear during one of the discussions that he does not think his theory leads to or should lead to predictions: '... my theory is not a predictive calculus; it is an interpretive theory.... It is very nice if a theory predicts something, but a theory has also another function, namely to correlate...' (p. 130). A theory that did not correlate would indeed be defective; but one that leads to no predictions is hardly ideal. And this particular theory in this particular area of knowledge (or ignorance) seems to me for the above reasons to stand or fall almost entirely on its experimental consequences. Certainly, if it has no such consequences I would not regard its constructs as very clearly outside the category of the 'mysterious non-physical'. A great deal more could be said about the paper under consideration, but a few of the difficulties must suffice in this review.

It seems to me that Fraser Nicol's paper deserves special mention: he makes a number of very illuminating remarks about the nature of ESP research by comparison with other scientific research and about the differences between various workers and analysts in the field of ESP research. This is not to say that I think all his comments are justified; in particular he makes some remarks about repeatability that give rise to a continuing battle throughout the discussions. 'After thirty years, psychical researchers have failed to produce one repeatable experiment.' 'By this is meant the designing of an experimental set-up which, found in practice to produce a significant effect, can be repeated by any competent person at any time in the foreseeable future with approximately similar significant results' (p. 28). It is clear that a rather restricted sense of 'repeatable' must be involved here, for in so far as repeatable experiments can ever be done on an individual they certainly cannot be repeated at *any* time in the foreseeable future owing to the inevitable demise of the subject well within the foreseeable future. Sharpening the edge of this remark, it is clearly possible to do repeatable experiments on someone who displays certain behaviour over even a short span of his life,



e.g. a calculating prodigy, a manic-depressive psychotic in the depressive phase. Not all calculating prodigies display similar behaviour—indeed each known case has certain idiosyncrasies. It is hardly surprising if ESP sensitives are in the same way highly idiosyncratic. 'Repeatability' will then involve the much weaker claim that the sensitive's powers have a certain persistence in time. It is not even necessary that different experimenters should be able to obtain similar results from the subject, since the experimenter may be a relevant environmental variable. Of course, it is *easier* to establish a phenomenon which is independent of most situational variables, and the more *fundamental* properties of the universe are (by definition) highly independent of situational variables. But just as we cannot reject precognition on the grounds that Shackleton couldn't foresee Derby winners, so we cannot reject a phenomenon that does not satisfy Nicol's repeatability criterion. Indeed, in the limiting case where we have only one observation of a phenomenon and never succeed in reproducing the same effect, we can by no means reject it unless we can *explain away* the one observation. The degree of repeatability required is thus determined by the claimed description of the phenomenon; if we claim to have observed a connection between the distance of stars and the Döppler red drift in their spectrum, this connection must be observable in every instance where the two variables can be estimated (cf. a connection between a personality-variable and an ESP performance variable). But if we are only claiming that Mrs Stewart could at one time 'read cards across the Channel', there is no requirement of repeatability. Progress towards fundamental laws in parapsychology will probably require the discovery of repeatable effects; but 'scientific soundness' does not require it, contrary to Nicol's suggestion (p. 48), and greatly though we would welcome it for theoretical and propagandistic purposes. No-one in the long discussion of repeatability (pp. 38–50) gives an account consistent with the above, although a number of individually good points are made.

Spencer Brown makes a number of interesting points in his paper and during the discussions. Even if he also produces rather more unsound points than most speakers, this is a very small price to pay for an original idea, and it has long seemed to me that psychical researchers could demonstrate their maturity more effectively by refraining from acting so offensively at his criticisms, as they do once more in the discussions here. But in general, this symposium including the discussion shows a considerable and welcome increase in the number of people who understand the important methodological points and the state of the subject.

From this only good can come, and it is to be hoped that others will reflect on the arguments presented here so that when the time comes for another International Conference or Ciba volume we shall be able to mark as much further progress as this shows over the 1930s.

MICHAEL SCRIVEN

THE MYSTERY OF LOURDES. By Ruth Cranston. London, Evans, 1956. 234 pp. Illus. 18s.

In this very full account of the origin, organisation and influence of the shrine of healing at Lourdes and of the pilgrimages to it, Ruth Cranston has adopted an unashamedly partisan outlook throughout her compelling book. Having been caught up, understandably, in the emotional atmosphere she found there, she very soon became convinced that many miraculous cures have taken place. From this conviction she launches a formidable attack on the as yet unconverted reader using various tricks familiar to journalists to score her points. It is necessary to make this quite clear because in the blurb on the loose cover Mrs Cranston is described as an 'impartial observer' who has set down 'without bias' what she found there.

Her approach is only permissible provided that the scientific evidence upon which she has based her opinions is completely reliable. As she is not a doctor she has naturally, but unfortunately, had to accept without question the medical evidence that has been made available to her. And it must be said at once that the Medical Bureau at Lourdes devotes a great deal of study to the individual cases so that cures are only recommended to the Church Commissioners for recognition as miracles after careful examination at the time and again after an interval and even then some of them are finally rejected by the Canonical Commission. As a result, only 54 miraculous cures have finally been officially accepted in the last 100 years yet nowadays about 30,000 sick people make a pilgrimage to Lourdes every year. Having mentioned these facts, the authoress later lets her enthusiasm run away with her (as she does in several rather sensational passages) by stating that 'It is probably safe to say that . . . at least ten thousand people have been cured there'.

Her account of the individual cases makes interesting reading and many of them appear to be most unexpected from the medical standpoint particularly amongst the invalid children and with respect to the rapidity of the recovery, often without a period of convalescence, in the adult cases. Naturally, in a book such as

this, full medical details are lacking and are for the most part accepted on trust but this is most unsatisfactory for the medical reader. Proper scientific appraisal is essential in such an important issue and is the only approach that can carry the full weight of conviction.

It is to be hoped, therefore, that an independent account of the cures giving full clinical details and investigation results together with the follow-up notes will one day be produced by a practising physician. Until that is done, final judgement must be reserved, for while there can be no doubt that the cures are certainly unexpected (they would never have passed the rigorous scrutiny of the Medical Bureau had they been otherwise), yet they are not so impossible, such as the re-growth of an amputated limb would be, that to postulate direct divine intervention would be the only reasonable way to account for them. Yet it is on the latter hypothesis that the whole edifice of the Lourdes organisation has been built.

This book is certainly worth reading, but while doing so the layman should constantly remind himself that in its recent report to the Archbishops' Commission on Divine Healing the British Medical Association stated that it had 'seen no evidence that there is any special type of illness cured solely by spiritual healing which cannot be cured by medical methods which do not involve such claims. The cases claimed as cures of a miraculous nature present no features of a unique and unexpected character outside the knowledge of any experienced physician or psychiatrist.'

IAN G. WICKES

**THE SEARCH FOR BRIDEY MURPHY.** By Morey Bernstein. London, Hutchinson, 1956. 256 pp. 15s.

The only exciting feature of this book is its dust cover! Frankly, I do not remember ever having read a book which was quite so boring.

The author is a businessman of Pueblo, Colorado, who became interested in hypnotism and was fortunate in finding a particularly good subject in the person of the wife of a neighbour. Upon her he decided to carry out some age regression experiments and finally to attempt to send her back to previous incarnations, noting on a tape recorder the information given by the subject in trance.

The major part of the information so obtained related to a supposed pre-existence as Bridey Murphy born in Cork in Ireland in 1798, the daughter of a barrister, who married another barrister named Brian MacCarthy. She went to live with her husband in



Belfast. He wrote for the *Belfast News-Letter* and taught at Queen's University, Belfast. A considerable amount of apparently circumstantial detail is given, but it is hardly worth while taking up valuable space by referring to it in detail in view of what has since been discovered and mentioned later.

The first hundred pages are mostly taken up with the history of how Mr Bernstein became interested in hypnotism and the pains he took to acquaint himself thoroughly with that art and how he finally determined to investigate through hypnotic trance the possibility or probability of reincarnation. Quite a few paragraphs are devoted to wearying details of his business worries, which account for delays in carrying out his programme of experiments, but for the reader anxious to learn of serious investigation into the realm of reincarnation through hypnosis they are more than tedious.

It is well known that a subject in hypnotic trance is ever anxious to assist the hypnotist in his experiment, provided of course, that it is a proper one, and for that reason alone it is of great importance that the subject should be unaware of the nature of the proposed experiment beforehand in order to guard against the probability of a too easy compliance or of an unwitting searching of the memory, or meandering of the imagination, which in trance will lead to a ready response to questions by supplying the kind of information sought.

It is amazing how the Inner Mind in trance is able to recall events and information which the Outer Mind may have acquired, quite fortuitously, years ago and which are no longer present in normal consciousness.

The excited enthusiasm with which Mr Bernstein and his wife and friends received information from the subject in response to many leading questions which, so far as they then knew, tended to establish a case for reincarnation, is quite understandable and there is no suggestion that anyone concerned in the experiments acted otherwise than in complete good faith.

Unfortunately, when the matter was thoroughly investigated, it transpired that the subject had been adopted at the age of three by a Norwegian uncle and a German-Irish aunt and to cap it all had had, as a child, a near neighbour and friend who was full of Irish Tales and whose maiden name was none other than BRIDGET MURPHY.

Thus, so far as Reincarnation is concerned, the book tends neither to prove nor disprove it; it does, however, provide a good example of the extent of hypnotic memory and should act as a salutary warning to inexperienced investigators in this field

not to be in too great a hurry to interpret the results of their experiments in any particular manner.

The tape recordings of the Bridey Murphy sessions are printed verbatim and the constant repetition of hypnotic suggestions and questions, although a necessary feature of the sessions, do not make for easy reading.

There are a number of Appendices to the book which contain some interesting and useful historical notes on different aspects of hypnosis, including a resumé of how to set about the treatment of a case of stammering. These, in my opinion, are the only redeeming feature of the book, but I do not consider them worth fifteen shillings.

The book has had an overwhelming success in the United States and insofar as it has there stimulated interest among the general public in the problems of hypnotism and reincarnation it may perhaps be praised on that account ; maybe it will have a similar effect in this country ; but I should be less than honest if I did not say that, in my opinion, this is not a book for the serious student of psychical research.

ERIC CUDDON

WITCHCRAFT TODAY. By Gerald B. Gardner. London, Rider, 1954. 163 pp. 12s. 6d.

As a writer on witchcraft in the modern world, Dr G. B. Gardner can claim several advantages. First, he is an anthropologist ; secondly, he is the curator of the Museum of Magic and Witchcraft in Castletown, Isle of Man ; and thirdly, he is, in his own words, a 'member of one of the ancient covens of the Witch Cult which still survive in England'.

He belongs to the school of Dr Margaret Murray, who has written an introduction to his book, in that he represents the Witch-Cult as the survival of a pre-Christian religion. He is anxious to stress this positive, religious aspect of witchcraft and to protest against the age-old allegations of diabolism and obscenity. Indeed, he is so zealous in his vindications that in places his witch-covens seem vested with an almost commonplace respectability and mild benevolence, and with an innocent joy that Puritans of all ages have treated with a hatred and a suspicion that were based on mere envy. Somehow, the apology is not quite convincing.

Some of his historical assertions resemble those of Dr Murray's in that they ignore other interpretations of a fact than the author's own. For instance, why should the number twelve, for the original King's Knights of the Garter, be derived from the twelve witches

who with their leader form a coven? Might not twelve be equally significant as the number of the Twelve Apostles?

Moreover, there are places where one feels that the author's membership in a modern witch-group is more of a handicap than an asset because of the necessity of preserving secrecy. One may admire loyalty to the requirements of a cult, but one cannot pretend that the silence it imposes is desirable in a study of this sort.

Dr Gardner shows a regrettable tendency to lump together widely different historical periods in order to create an impressive background of mystery. To assert sweepingly of Graeco-Roman antiquity, 'there were absolutely no inhibitions' (p. 91), or to quote with uncritical approval William Brend's mention of 'the Roman priest in his temple crudely and literally emasculating his followers' (p. 96), is surely to arouse a protest in any reader whose knowledge of past ages is more than utterly superficial.

Finally, it is greatly to be regretted that in what is in many ways a pleasant and interesting book there are so many slips, typographical and otherwise. Pope Innocent IV is credited with a Bull *Elsi Animarum*, and Stobaeus with *Ede Anima ae Demona*. One can only hope that when Dr Gardner and his witch-colleagues recite their incantations they prudently maintain a higher standard of accuracy.

GEOFFREY B. RIDDEHOUGH

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Durham, N.C., Duke University Press. \$1.50.

Mrs Rhine continues to demonstrate the value of her method of treating spontaneous cases as a guide to experimental problems. Her problem is that of the relative importance in telepathic communication of agent and percipient. Her general conclusion is that such events are rather of the nature of perceiving by the percipient than of sending a message by an agent. This seems to Mrs Rhine to weaken the evidence for the reality of communicators in mediumistic seances.

W. Neilsen reports a preliminary precognition experiment with a single subject giving marginally significant results.

C. B. Nash reports an ESP experiment in which there were a number of different characters to be guessed on each card. It was thought that such a multiple-choice situation might lead to better success than the usual single-choice method. There was no evidence that it did so; a not quite significant difference was found in favour of the single-choice guesses.



There is a discussion by C. B. Nash and H. Forwald on the strength of evidence provided for PK by Forwald's placement experiments.

J. Eisenbud sympathetically reviews a volume in the Bollingen Series containing a monograph by C. G. Jung on Synchronicity and by Pauli on Archetypal Ideas and Scientific Theory.

R. H. THOULESS

## CORRESPONDENCE

### 'SIX THEORIES ABOUT APPARITIONS'

SIR,—I should like to make some comments on the paper 'Six Theories about Apparitions', by Professor Hornell Hart and others (*Proceedings*, Vol. 50, Part 185).

1. As the title indicates, the authors concern themselves almost solely with apparitions. Auditory cases, etc., are excluded, and so are dreams. This seems to me to be an artificial division of the subject, and likely to give misleading results. No hard and fast line can be drawn between dreams and apparitions; the ordinary dream, the 'dream of an apparition', the 'borderland hallucination' and the apparition seen when fully awake form a continuous chain, and any theory which sets out to explain one should be able to explain the rest, or at least to say why it cannot do so.

2. It has been repeatedly pointed out, from the fifth century A.D. onwards, that the person seen as an apparition, etc., is not necessarily the person responsible for its appearance. The authors do not deal with this point; yet even in their own material there are cases in which an alternative agent is likely. In their Case 5, for instance, the supposed agent (Mrs Alexander) knew nothing of what was happening, and the figure seen was in my opinion a parent-image derived from the mind of the dying girl. In other cases the veridical element in an apparition may be acquired precognitively by the percipient without the help of any agent. This possibility is likewise not discussed. In the list of cases given at the end of Part I, the authors nail their colours to the mast by naming the cases from the appearer whenever possible; it would, I think, be less question-begging to name from the percipient.

3. The sources from which the cases are drawn are somewhat heterogeneous. It might have been useful to divide them into two groups—one favouring the survival hypothesis, and the other hostile or neutral—and test for homogeneity. My impression is

that the two groups of cases would differ significantly in some points.

4. I am not familiar with all the works listed ; but taking one of them—*Phantasms of the Living*—as a sample, I am puzzled by the authors' rejection of numerous cases which seem to come within their criteria (pp. 155-6), and in particular of nearly all the 'borderland' cases. Do they count these as dreams?

5. Once included, all cases are on the same footing, and contribute on equal terms to the statistical arguments. It seems a pity that, having gone to the trouble of giving each case an evidentiality rating, the authors should have made so little use of it. For instance, the 15 clairvoyant cases listed in footnote 3 on p. 196 have an average rating of .077, compared with about .30 for the whole collection ; the difference is obviously significant, and seriously weakens any argument based on these cases.

6. It is not clear to me that the five types into which the cases are classified (p. 155) are in fact natural divisions of the data. Type I, which may be called the haunting type, is certainly distinct from the others. But in what traits do Types II and III differ? Table II does not answer this. Again, cases have been allotted to Types IV or V on a question of evidence, not of fact. (This is the probable cause of a large difference in evidentiality between these two types. IV averages .30, against .20 for V.)

7. Although I agree with the authors that there is no essential difference between apparitions of the dead and those of the living, it seems clear that the significance figure given on p. 169 is exaggerated. It has been assumed, apparently, that the various traits of Tables I and III are independent, which is not the case. In Table I, for instance, traits 1, 2 and 3 would certainly influence 4, and in Table III traits 6, 7, 8 and 9 would often go together.

8. Table VI (p. 204) suffers from an inherent bias in the data. A Type I (haunting) case seen by a single percipient has little evidential value, and even less if a second person is present and sees nothing ; whereas the same type seen by two or more persons has much more value. Consequently the cases which find their way into the collections are usually collective (or repeated). The same applies to Types IV and V when no veridical information is given ; but not to Types II and III, since it has been agreed by most collectors that an appearance near the time of death is itself in the nature of a message of the death. Consequently it is not surprising that in I, IV and V there are 23 collective to 8 non-collective cases, whereas in II and III there are only 3 collective to 12 non-collective. The latter proportion is likely to be a fairer sample of all cases, and so the argument on the next page loses its

basis. For similar reasons, it would not be safe to say from Table I, trait 12, or Table II, trait 4, that repeated appearances are specially characteristic of haunts.

9. In spite of these criticisms, I would agree with the conclusions given on pp. 225-7, with the following exceptions :

D6. This is not proved (see point 8 above). At the same time my own finding, from a quite different line of approach, is that a percipient in a collective case requires a lower degree of sensitivity than in an individual case.

D7. This rule may be accepted as a general statement ; but there are numerous exceptions, which have not been mentioned by the authors.

D8. This may be so, but the authors make no attempt to prove it. Almost the only relevant information is given in Part A of Table II, and of four traits in this part, one (No. 4) cannot be used to prove anything, except a bias in the data. The authors now, towards the end of their paper, suddenly throw at us such items as 'associated with tragic or other emotionally intense experiences', and 'some relatively simple routine related to the long-past crisis', and seem to expect us to take them for granted.

D9. This is an important point, but I cannot criticise it as I do not know the cases on which it is based.

D13. Again I should like to know what cases the authors are thinking of. There is a reference to physical phenomena on p. 215, but no details are given. If the question is raised, it would surely be advisable to mention at the same time the well-established fact that apparitions leave no physical traces behind them.

10. We come now to theories. In our subject a good criterion of a theory is not so much that it should cover the kinds of case which happen, as that it should exclude the kinds of case which do not happen. Judged by this test, the authors' theory fails. I cannot imagine any case, real or fictional, which it would not accommodate.

11. Among the theories listed for discussion, that of Podmore (*Apparitions and Thought-transference*, pp. 301-2, English edition) is not included. This theory appears to me to be on the whole the most useful which has been put forward up to the present.

Dublin.

G. F. DALTON

SIR,—The international correspondence out of which the article in question emerged has as its basic objective the promotion of



creative discussion. Such discussion is a co-operative process in which differences of opinion are regarded as potential assets from which sounder and more adequate formulations of truth may be developed. These criticisms from Mr Dalton are therefore to be welcomed cordially and explored open mindedly, in the hope that further insights may be obtained from them.

Mr Dalton's first criticism consists of objections to the way in which we limited our field of study. First he objects to our excluding purely auditory cases. He might have added purely tactual ones and also cases in which physical phenomena occurred with no apparitional aspects.

But let us suppose that we were making a study of office interviews between department store buyers and salesmen. It would not seem likely to bias the results seriously if we excluded from such a study an analysis of remarks overhead through partitions, appointments made by letter but broken, and traffic accidents experienced by salesmen on their way to such interviews. Remember that the genesis of our study was a previous analysis of ESP-projection cases. That previous study was open to the criticism that it needed to be examined in the perspective of apparitional cases in general. Mr Dalton's contention would seem to be that apparitional cases need to be examined in the full perspective of all psychical phenomena. Certainly that is part of the task of psychical research in general. But a specific study must concentrate on a field having limits of some sort, and for our purposes it seemed best to focus attention on full-fledged cases of apparitions, *including*, of course, auditory, tactual, and any physical phenomena which might be associated with such apparitions.

Mr Dalton also objects to the exclusion of dreams from our study. As I see it, there is a sharp and clear-cut difference between (1) an experience in which an individual who is perceiving the physical environment in which his physical body is located and who perceives an apparition as located in that environment and (2) an individual who ceases to be aware of his physical body and his physical surroundings, and who perceives dream images of persons in a dream-background. I quite agree that the relationship between dreams and apparitions needs to be explored. But once again, science cannot possibly examine all phenomena relating to a given topic, because all the phenomena of the universe are related to all the other phenomena of the universe. Limits must be set to any given study, and the difference between (1) an apparition seen by a waking person as being located in the percipient's normal physical environment and (2) a dream or vision divorced from the percipient's actual physical surroundings seems

to me to be a fairly legitimate point at which to segregate the body of data to be studied.

Mr Dalton's second point states: '... the person seen as an apparition, etc., is not necessarily the person responsible for its appearance.' This statement appears to take for granted a simple one-two type of causation in relation to apparitions. In the light of the six theories discussed in our article, is it not clear that apparitional phenomena can be understood only in the context of the total configuration which includes the appearer, the percipient, the emotional connexion between the two, and the emotional stresses and pressures existing between these individuals and the places and circumstances in which both the appearer and the percipient are located at the time? The theory that Mrs Alexander's apparition was a mere mother-image projected by the mind of the dying daughter ignores the fact that the mother said, on going to bed on the evening before her daughter's death: 'I am sure Helen [the daughter] is very ill.' She said this without having normal knowledge of her daughter's illness. While this fact, if it stood by itself, would quite likely be regarded as a mere coincidence, it must be analysed in the light of the whole body of facts in our article which show the significant connexion between the direction of motivated attention on the part of the appearer and the perception of the apparition.

Mr Dalton's third criticism suggests classifying the cases 'into two groups—one favouring the survival hypothesis, and the other hostile or neutral'. I should be interested to know by what objective and verifiable criteria he would achieve a valid classification of this sort. I am also interested in his reasons for lumping the 'hostile or neutral' into one category. The S.P.R. cases were presumably gathered, at least for the most part, by persons who sincerely wanted to find the truth without prejudice. Many of these cases were collected from persons who believed in survival. I should guess that it would be rather difficult to gather any adequate collection of thoroughly and dispassionately presented cases which originated from persons actively hostile to the survival hypothesis. I wonder what Mr Dalton would do with cases collected by F. W. H. Myers, whose procedure would seem to have been on the whole eminently inductive and critical, but who finally came out in a clear-cut statement of his belief in survival.

Certainly, on this point we can agree that strong prejudice on the part of the percipient or of the reporter of the case is a factor to be brought out in the record and to be taken account of so far as possible in appraising the case.

On Mr Dalton's fourth point, I admit that our collection of cases

was not exhaustive. But I do wish to place on record my assurance that where any pertinent cases are omitted, this was due to oversights and to lack of time to make a more exhaustive study, and that it was not due to any biased desire to exclude cases of any kind which might have altered conclusions.

Mr Dalton's fifth point relating to the low evidentiality rating of the clairvoyant cases listed in footnote 3 on page 196, impresses me as a highly important contribution to the discussion. Certainly the criticism which he raises calls for a great deal of further study. But one technical point arises. Mr Dalton says: 'The difference is obviously significant. . . .' Did Mr Dalton calculate statistically the significance of the difference? If so, what is the critical ratio?

In his sixth criticism, Mr Dalton objects to the five categories into which apparitions are classified on page 155. This objection would seem to indicate that Mr Dalton quite missed, or failed to apply at this point, the central plan of the statistical analysis. In his seventh paragraph he says, 'Although I agree with the authors that there is no essential difference between apparitions of the dead and those of the living. . . .' In the previous paragraph he says, 'In what traits do Types II and III differ?' In order to make the statistical analysis of likenesses and differences between apparitions of the dead and the living, it was obviously necessary to classify them into those two categories. But what shall be done in such a classification about the very numerous group of cases in which apparitions were seen at, or very close to, the moment of death? To set these apart, category III is defined as follows: 'Apparitions perceived at the moment of death or so close to it that no departure from that moment has been established.' The apparitions of persons who were alive at the time of the appearance needed to be subdivided into two groups in order to make fair comparisons with ESP-projection cases. One of these two groups should properly consist of 'conscious' apparitions of the living, and the other of 'unconscious' apparitions of the living. Conscious apparitions of the living would bear the closest relationship to ESP-projection cases in which no apparition of the appearer was seen. But how do we know whether an apparition really was conscious or unconscious? The only operational method of discriminating between these two categories is on the basis of the recorded evidence.

In paragraph six Mr Dalton speaks of the 'large difference in evidentiality between [Types IV and V]'. He cites this contrast as being between .30 and .20. What did he find to be the critical ratio of this difference?

In Mr Dalton's eighth paragraph of criticisms he brings out an



illuminating explanation of the greater frequency of collective cases in categories I, IV and V than in categories II and III. While the suggestion which he makes is certainly worthy of respectful attention and further investigation, the statistical evidence which he presents needs critical analysis. The percentage of collective cases for types I, IV and V taken together is 74.2; the percentage of collective cases in types II and III taken together is 20.0. The difference between these two—54.2 per cent—is statistically significant, with a critical ratio of 3.5. Mr Dalton's point, that the percentage of collective cases among those reported is affected to a marked extent by selective factors, seems thus to be well taken.

Dalton's criticisms of conclusions numbered D7 to D13 amount quite largely to saying: 'Just what aspects of just what cases prove these points? I know some other cases which appear to prove something else.' From an absolute standpoint of science and logic, the objection to the incomplete specification of the data on which the generalizations are based is well taken. In a realistic sense, however, it might be pointed out that at the time of preparation for publication the pressure was strongly toward eliminating parts of the paper rather than adding further detailed evidence—which, of course, runs very rapidly into space.

Moreover, Mr Dalton himself is open to the same sort of criticism in his failure to give full specifications of the cases which he has in mind and on which he bases some of his objections.

In his paragraph 10, Mr Dalton says: 'In our subject a good criterion of a theory is not so much that it should cover the kinds of case which happen, as that it should exclude the kinds of case which do not happen.' I am not sure just what he means by this dictum. Why should the basic principles of scientific generalization differ in psychical research from what they are in other sciences? Would he say that a criterion of the soundness of the law of gravitation, for example, is that it excludes what does not happen?

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### A SEVENTH APPARITION-THEORY

SIR,—Professor Hornell Hart and his associated collaborators, in their interesting discussion on Apparitions, describe six theories put forward to account for these. I would like to suggest a seventh

theory, based upon the other six, but enabling us to dispense with unproved entities such as 'aetheric bodies' and 'a common unconscious'. In this theory we have to assume only the extension of powers which the mind is known to possess, and we assume them only because apparitions seem to imply these extensions. If apparitions do not occur, neither do the extensions, and minds are left only with those functions which we know them to have.

(My quotation marks enclose words I cannot even try to explain in a short letter, and whose ordinary connotation I do not necessarily believe in.)

(1) We know that the mind 'produces' mental images. These images consist of sense-data perceived 'internally' instead of in the 'external world'.

(2) We know that most people, in their dreams, find themselves with bodies not noticeably different from their waking bodies (except that they are insensitive to pain), and these dream-bodies are usually normally clothed. In day-dreams, too, we have imaged bodies which seem much like our waking bodies and are normally clothed.

(3) Almost always these images appear to be in our private 'mental' space, but we sometimes project mental images, as in 'eidetic images' and the mystic's 'external vision'. (Also in the drunkard's pink rats, but as these have a physical cause, they fall into a different category.) In mistaking a sheet on the clothes-line for a ghost, and in 'seeing' pictures in the fire or a wall-paper pattern, we are unconsciously projecting imagery to complete the picture. But all these projections seem to be private. No one sees them but ourselves, though they appear to us to be in the external world.

(4) Yet we do know that telepathy and perhaps clairvoyance sometimes give mental images a limited publicity.

(5) Though most images are ephemeral, some persist (in our memories) through a lifetime.

(6) In dreams and day-dreams alike, our mental self-images move and speak with a 'life' of their own.

All I propose to add to these known powers of the mind are the following extensions :

(1) and (2) I suggest that our mental self-images may be nearer to the truth of our appearance than we suppose ; that, in fact, our 'unconscious mind', being perhaps less dependent on conscious sensory observation, may know the look of us better than our conscious mind does.

(That some factor in our unconsciousness may have wider perception than our physical senses was suggested to me by this : wak-

ing each morning at the exact time of my usual rising I discovered that I was not roused by the chiming of the school clock half a mile away, which kept correct time, but by my own irregular watch, which lay on a chair beside me and was often two or three minutes wrong. What, in me, looked at my watch while my eyes were shut?)

(3) It is possible that some people, on rare occasions—which may be (but not necessarily) emotional crises—project their self-images into 'external space', usually without knowing it. These imaged selves would, of course, be normally clothed, and there is no reason why any other appropriate mental images—a carriage or a dog—might not accompany them as naturally as in a dream.

(4) Clairvoyance may enable some people to see these projected image-bodies, perhaps more easily because they are projected.

Telepathy seems to me a less helpful suggestion, (*a*) because telepathy would not account for haunted houses unless we suppose the ghost as agent; and (*b*) it would hardly explain cases with a time-gap before perception.

Clairvoyance, too, seems to provide a better explanation of collective perceiving. Am I wrong in thinking that telepathy, involving two minds instead of the direct perception of clairvoyance, might produce more difference between what the various percipients perceive?

(5) That some of these projected image-bodies might persist (like memories), as in haunts.

(6) These self-images, which appear to be nothing more than imaged sense-data, have a limited life of their own: they walk, behave, sometimes speak. This need not surprise us. The images of ourselves and other people in our dreams do the same.

It appears possible, judging by apparitions of the living, that the self, or consciousness, may be temporarily, and to some extent, located in the image-body, though never with its full intelligence—so far as we have yet discovered. Again, this is what happens in dreams and day-dreams.

To sum up, instead of supposing that we have aetheric bodies, it would be simpler to think that minds have, unconsciously, more-or-less correct images of their bodily selves; that a few minds under stress (recognised or unrecognised), can project their self-images into external space, and that sometimes these persist; and that a few clairvoyant people can perceive these imaged, partly-intelligent figures.

But what of apparitions, or image-bodies, of the dead? Those of the newly-dead can be explained as projected and persisting. Of the long dead, this may be the explanation: we do not know



enough yet to dogmatise. Where the apparition seems to have come with a purpose, the explanation certainly would be very complicated. The possibility of self-images of the dead appearing cannot, as yet, be entirely ruled out.

MAY BELL

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South Africa.

### THE SPECIOUS PRESENT

SIR,—The interesting article in the June S.P.R. *Journal* by Professor Denbigh, with its revival of Saltmarsh's theory of the Specious Present, raises many issues. Both Saltmarsh and Professor Denbigh assume, as the latter's diagram on p. 242 clearly shows, that the duration block of the specious present, our experiences 'now' includes, though minutely, the physical future, so they conclude that by subconscious extension of the 'now' more of the future might be apprehended.

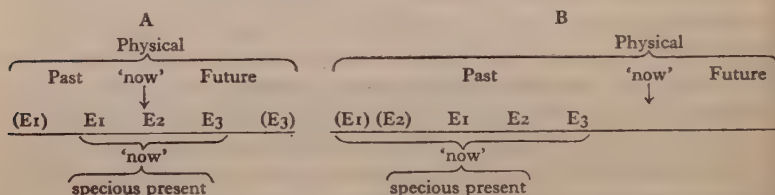
The theory soon leads into difficult philosophical problems ; but from the point of view of a moderate Realism it appears fallacious. Accepting perceptual Time with its 'before' and 'after' as real, there seem to be many ways of defining an objective physical instant, or 'now' dividing the two. A swinging pendulum has conceptually an 'infinite' number of such 'instants' or physical 'nows' separating 'before' and 'after' or 'past' and 'present'. The proposition 'Every time the pendulum reaches any point there is a physical now', is timeless and universal. To compare any  $x$  with our awareness of the same we must choose one, e.g. the lowest point in the swing, record it mechanically and compare the record with another of the 'now' of our perceiving the pendulum at that point.

Reaction time experiments do this repeatedly. An electric contact is made, and simultaneously a bulb lights and an electric time recorder starts—the physical 'now'. The subject records his experienced 'now' by breaking the contact and stopping the time recorder. There is always an interval between the two, occupied largely in the time taken in the physiological processes of nervous conduction from sensory organ to cortex and from cortex to muscle. It seems clear that the 'now' of experience, the specious present, because of the time taken in physiological processes, can not contain a single event belonging to the physical future, nor an event in the physical present ; it is all experience of events that are already over.

The facts of physical transmission show the same. We say

'now' on hearing a clap of thunder. The event causing it may have taken place 15 or more seconds previously. We never literally hear music or even a conversation at the exact moment it is physically happening. The astronomer says 'now' marking the transit of a star. The event causing his experience may have taken place before he was born.

The issue is clear from the following diagram, letting  $E_1$ ,  $E_2$  and  $E_3$  stand for three events all comprised in our experienced 'now' or the duration block of the specious present, and ( $E_1$ ) and ( $E_2$ ) for events in any extension of it.



A is the theory of Saltmarsh, only plausible from the point of view here adopted by surreptitiously introducing the future  $E_3$  into the present. No extension of the specious present, conscious or unconscious, would include anything but past events. 'B' is correct.

There is a complementary fact that goes far to explain the specious present. All mental experiences or sensations persist after the stimulus causing them ceases. So far as the tactile sense goes, the Victorian schoolboy was painfully aware of it. Visually it alone accounts for the cinema, auditorily for hearing a continuous note and not a series of vibrations, as we may with a low frequency pedal note on the organ. Therefore a flash of lightning, practically instantaneous, is seen as it is and appears to take time simply because each momentary stimulus dies away slowly and fuses with the next exactly as in the cinema.

This endorses and emphasises the point made, that the specious present is only awareness of the past, the fused sensations of the past, and is not a sound basis on which to build theories of precognition or other parapsychological phenomena.

H. L. HARGREAVES

Bovey Tracey,  
Devon.

SIR,—In his letter Canon Hargreaves brings forward a number of interesting points, but I am not sure that they are entirely

relevant to the point at issue. The sound of a thunder clap and the light from a star do, of course, take a finite time to reach the observer. And in reaction time experiments there is a measurable duration between the lighting of a bulb and the moment at which the observer is able to operate a switch which turns it off. These facts are undeniable, but they do not seem related to the problem of making a philosophical definition of the instant we call *now*, i.e., the present.

Nor is it clear how this definition can be arrived at by means of a pendulum, or by use of a mechanical recorder of a sequence of events. For ultimately it is the human observer who has to take the decision that a particular state of the pendulum or the recorder is a present state and not a past or future one. This is based on consciousness: out of the sequence of physical events the only basis for defining which is the *present* event is my awareness of it (powerfully reinforced by the fact that others normally agree.) This is made clearer by analysing what is already implicit in the use of the present tense in statements such as 'an electric contact is made', 'a bulb lights' etc. in Canon Hargreaves' letter. Many of the pitfalls in the philosophical discussion of time arise from the assumptions we have already made in our use of grammar!

My view is that the special instant called 'now' is defined subjectively and, if this is accepted, there are no grounds for Canon Hargreaves' remark that the 'now' of experience, the specious present, 'cannot contain a single event belonging to the physical future'. The terms 'future' and 'past' can only be defined in relation to a subjective decision concerning the present. Of course, under normal circumstances there is no ambiguity; this is due to the 'pointlike' quality of the attention, as discussed in my article. But the facts of precognitive and postcognitive telepathy seem to indicate that perception, at the subconscious level, may extend forwards or backwards from the instant which is 'now' to the conscious attention.

It may be objected that if a moving film were taken of an experiment in precognitive telepathy, it could be demonstrated objectively that card B had not yet been turned up at the moment when the percipient successfully guessed what it would be. To do this however requires the film to be run through *at some later time*. The decision concerning the 'objective' time sequence can thus only be obtained retrospectively. At any actual instant, at the moment which is the 'now' of consciousness, I contend that there can be no evidence, other than is based on conscious perception, that some event 'has not yet happened'. And, if the results in telepathy are found to have no other explanation, I believe we



must accept that in a certain sense it *has* happened—that is to say it has happened for the sub-conscious, if not for the conscious attention. (The fact that the record provided by the film strip is found subsequently to agree with the decision reached by consciousness, that card B had not yet been turned up, is simply an indication that it is the conscious attention—and not the sub-conscious—which is most closely in touch with what we commonly regard as the objective external world.)

KENNETH DENBIGH

Edinburgh.

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# Society for Psychical Research

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SUPPLEMENT No. 17\*

FOR MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1954

### 1. TERMINATION OF LEASE

DURING the year the Council have given anxious consideration to the position in which the Society may find itself on the termination of its lease of 31 Tavistock Square at Midsummer 1956. It has not yet been possible to establish whether the Society will be able to obtain a renewal of the lease, and if so, on what terms. It is, however, certain that on the expiration of the present lease the Society will be put to considerable expense, and the Council have accordingly thought it prudent to accumulate funds towards meeting this. There are available for this purpose several donations received during the year, in particular £1,000 given by the Parapsychology Foundation, £200 received from anonymous donors, and, with the consent of the donor, the unexpended balance (amounting to £411) of a sum given for the investigation into mediumship referred to in the last Annual Report. The Council wish to express their warmest thanks to all these donors for their generosity. They propose to set aside further sums as opportunity occurs.

### 2. SEVEN-YEAR COVENANTS

The Council have also carefully considered possibilities of increasing the Society's income, especially by a scheme whereby members resident in the United Kingdom would be invited to sign seven-year covenants of the kind familiar to subscribers to various charities. Under such covenants very substantial sums can be claimed as rebate of income tax. The Society's Solicitors advised that the Articles of Association, as they then stood, were an obstacle to obtaining recognition of such covenants by the Inland Revenue authorities. The Council accordingly instructed the solicitors to draft new Articles designed to remove this obstacle, and

\* The Supplement will have its own numbering in future. To date there have been 16 Supplements to the following numbers of the Journal : Vol. 35, Nos. 654, 656, 658, 660 ; Vol. 36, Nos. 663, 665, 667, 669, 671, 672 ; Vol. 37, Nos. 674, 676, 677, 679, 681, 682.

at the same time to bring the Society's regulations as a whole more into line with recent Company law. They decided to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society with a view to giving effect to the new Articles.

### 3. PARAPSYCHOLOGY FOUNDATION CONFERENCES

At the Conference for Parapsychological Studies held at Utrecht in 1953 it was decided that, before the next conference of comparable scope was held, smaller conferences devoted to particular branches of psychical research should be convened. Pursuant to this policy two conferences were convened by the Parapsychology Foundation in the spring at St Paul de Vence, France; one to discuss the relation of parapsychology to philosophy, and the other its relation to medical psychology. Several members of the Society took part in each of these conferences.

It was also recommended at Utrecht that the Society should organize a small conference to consider the methods of investigating spontaneous cases of the kind described in *Phantasms of the Living*, and in early volumes of the *Proceedings* relating to 'Phantasms of the Dead' and haunted houses. This conference is being held in July 1955 at Cambridge, and the Parapsychology Foundation is generously supporting it.

### 4. THE LODGE ENVELOPES

The Committee consisting of representatives of Sir Oliver Lodge's family, the Society, and the London Spiritualist Alliance, which has for several years been conducting in accordance with Sir Oliver's instructions the complicated 'posthumous' test devised by him, came to the conclusion that the time had come to open those of the envelopes left by him which then remained unopened. A meeting was accordingly held in May at which members of the Lodge family, the Society, and the Alliance were present, and the envelopes were opened. It thus for the first time became clear what was the 'message' which, if the test succeeded, would be found reproduced or definitely referred to in the communications given to the Committee through various mediums. These were numerous, and the laborious task of checking each of them with the 'message' was kindly undertaken by Mrs Kathleen Gay and Miss Mercy Phillimore. A report is shortly expected which it is intended should be published by the Society and by the Alliance, as nearly at the same time as is practicable.

### 5. RESEARCH

Dr S. G. Soal, with the aid of a grant from the Parapsychology Foundation, New York, has started a programme of ESP experiments in the Psychological Laboratory at Birkbeck College, University of London, and has been appointed a temporary member of the staff.

With the help of a grant from the Foundation, Dr D. J. West is conducting an inquiry into the medical evidence collected by the Lourdes Medical Bureau on notable cases at Lourdes. Grants have also been made to several other members of the Society. The Council wish to place on record their appreciation of the Foundation's generosity in thus facilitating research.

Mr G. W. Lambert has continued his inquiries into 'Antoine Richard's Garden', a postscript to the Moberly-Jourdain book *An Adventure*.

Arising out of the controversy over Mr G. Spencer Brown's broadcast and paper in *Nature* on the problem of random numbers in relation to psychical research, Mr A. T. Oram has conducted an experiment in which members of the Society collaborated; the result was published in the November-December issue of the *Journal*.

Mr G. W. Fisk has continued to organize ESP groups in various parts of the country and to collate the results in collaboration with Mr A. M. J. Mitchell.

Various reports of spontaneous cases, including haunts and poltergeists, have been investigated by the Officers and members of Council and by members of the Society, but there is nothing of paranormal interest to record.

The Council wish to express their warm thanks to Mr F. W. Warrick, a member of many years' standing, for his generous gift of a tape recording machine.

## 6. PUBLICITY

Articles and features on psychical research have continued to appear, if anything with increasing frequency, in the press, which in general has shown more readiness to consult the Society beforehand.

A demonstration of the Fisk clock card method for ESP experiments was given in the B.B.C. Television Service in a series 'Science in the Making'. In the same service later in the year Dr D. J. West gave a talk on psychical research, accompanied by a demonstration of an ESP experiment in controlled conditions. Talks in the Third Programme of the B.B.C. were given by Mr G. Spencer Brown and Dr G. D. Wassermann, and Professor Antony Flew was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Fifty-One Club which was broadcast in the North Regional service of the B.B.C.

A number of inquiries have been received for the use of the Society's material from American television stations and from film producers in this country interested in American television. These have been referred to Mr Robert Musel, an American citizen who concluded an agreement with the Society in 1953 covering the exclusive use of its material for television films in the Americas. To date £298 in option money has been received from Mr Musel in fulfilment of his obligations under this agreement, though as yet no films have been put into circulation by his agency.



## 7. ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST

There was a discussion of 'Statistical Methods with special reference to Parapsychology' on 3 September 1954 at a meeting of the Psychological Section of the British Association in Oxford. The special problem which gave rise to the meeting was the claim of Mr Spencer Brown to have given reason for supposing that the deviations from chance expectation generally claimed as evidence for paranormal cognition may be explained as a general characteristic of the results of matching as carried out in checking the experiments. The speakers were Mr Spencer Brown, Dr R. H. Thouless, and Dr G. D. Wassermann. A discussion followed which however was more concerned with the general credibility of results in psychical research than with the particular problem dealt with by the speakers.

Four members of the Society are serving on the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Divine Healing, the Rev. Canon L. W. Grensted, Dr J. A. Hadfield, Lady Jefferson, and Dr R. H. Thouless. Mrs K. M. Goldney gave evidence on behalf of the Society before a sub-committee on Demonology and Exorcism, the Chairman of which is the Dean of Exeter.

In March was formed the Churches Fellowship for Psychical Study. This is an inter-denominational body whose President is Sir Cyril Atkinson, LL.D., and several clerical and non-clerical members of the Society are associated with it.

The Perrott Studentship in Psychical Research at Trinity College, Cambridge, was awarded to a member of the Society, Mr Trevor H. Hall.

A prize of £50 for an essay on some aspect of psychical research was offered by an anonymous member of the Society. The closing date for entries is 30 June 1955.

## 8. UNIVERSITY SOCIETIES

*Oxford University Society for Psychical Research.* During 1954 the Society was addressed by Dr Alice E. Buck, Dr Louis Rose, Mr B. Babington Smith, Mr F. Claude Palmer, Mr Harry Edwards, Mr James Laver, Dr W. H. Gillespie, Fr. Joseph Crehan, S. J., Mr Horace Leaf, and Mr W. G. Roll. The Society's officers for the year were: *President* : W. G. Roll; *Secretary* : A. P. de H. Collett; *Treasurer* : N. E. Ransome (till June) and B. M. Currie (from October).

*Cambridge University Society for Psychical Research.* During 1954 the Society was addressed by Mr G. Spencer Brown, Mr Harry Edwards, Dr R. H. Thouless, Mrs Penelope Gatty, Mr Elliott O'Donnell, Dr Ian Fletcher, Mrs W. H. Salter, and Mr Horace Leaf. Experiments in ESP have been conducted with emotive word cards, and runs conducted with hypnosis have been compared with those made in a normal state. The Society's officers were: *President* : Prof. C. D. Broad, with Dr R. H. Thouless deputizing during his absence in the United States; *Secretary* : T. D. West (till June) and A. O. Gauld

(from October); *Treasurer* : F. Jenkin (till June) and D. H. McLain (from October); *Experimental Officer* : A. Kendon.

*University College, Leicester, Society for Psychical Research.* We wish every success to the Society which has been formed at University College, Leicester. Experiments are being carried out, and a small journal, whose first number appeared in December, will, it is hoped, be issued each term. The officers are : *Hon. President* : Professor E. A. Stewardson; *Hon. Vice-President* : Dr S. H. Harvey; *Research Officer* : E. J. Friend; *Publications Officer* : P. D. Lawman; *Secretary* : A. M. Young; *Treasurer* : J. L. Randall.

## 9. NEW BOOKS

Dr D. J. West, the Society's Hon. Experimental Research Officer, is the author of *Psychical Research Today*, published in May by Duckworth. In *Modern Experiments in Telepathy*, published in October by Faber & Faber, Dr S. G. Soal and Mr F. Bateman give a full account of the ESP experiments with Basil Shackleton and Gloria Stewart. Two articles based on the book were published in the *Sunday Times* in May. G. N. M. Tyrrell's last work, *The Nature of Human Personality*, was published during the year.

The Parapsychology Foundation, New York, has re-issued with a Preface by Dr Gardner Murphy the two-volume edition of F. W. H. Myers's *Human Personality and its Survival of Bodily Death*.

## 10. THE PRESIDENCY

Professor F. J. M. Stratton, D.S.O., F.R.S., was elected President of the Society for a second year.

## 11. OBITUARY

The Council regret to record the death of Sir Lawrence Jones, Bart., a Vice-President and former President of the Society and for many years a member of the Council. They also record with regret the death of Count Perovsky-Petrovo-Solovovo, an Honorary Member of the Society, and of Bishop F. J. Western, a Life Associate for about fifty years.

## 12. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY

During the year 115 Members and 11 Associates were elected, as well as 2 Corresponding Members and 2 Honorary Associates. The total loss in membership from deaths, resignations, and removals was 82. This results in a net increase of 48 in the total membership, which now, including Honorary and Corresponding Members (18) and Honorary Associates (14), stands at 1,035, the highest total since 1928 (1,061).

GENERAL FUND									
SUBSCRIPTIONS :									
	Members	1952	-	-	-	-	-	-	£17 8 0
		1953	-	-	-	-	-	-	141 16 2
		1954	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,596 9 1
									£1,755 12
	Associates	1952	-	-	-	-	-	-	£1 10 2
		1953	-	-	-	-	-	-	16 15 1
		1954	-	-	-	-	-	-	84 10 9
									102 16
£1,705	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-£1,858 9
52	PROPORTIONS OF LIFE MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 105 0
228	INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 219 0
66	INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND RECOVERABLE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 61 17
84	CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT'S SALARY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 74 8
225	SUB-LET RENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- 225 0
£2,360	TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME		-	-	-	-	-	-	-£2,543 15
	DONATIONS (Annual) :		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Life Members	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£234 11 0
	Members	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22 19 0
	Associates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11 16 6
£258	FEES AND ROYALTIES		-	-	-	-	-	-	£269 6 6
I	SALE OF BOOKS AND WASTE PAPER		-	-	-	-	-	-	692 11 6
									64 19 4
—	DONATIONS as per schedule (see list on p. ix)		-	-	-	-	-	-	£1,615 7 3
121	LEGACY—S. P. BLIGH		-	-	-	-	-	-	500 0 0
15	INTEREST ON SPECIAL DEPOSIT ACCOUNT—I YEAR		-	-	-	-	-	-	22 0 8
									2,137 7
£2,755	TOTAL INCOME		-	-	-	-	-	-	-£5,708



## GENERAL FUND (cont'd)



**BALANCE SHEETS (cont'd)**

*Note* : No account has been taken of Post-War Credits for Income Tax amounting to £2 15 0.

**REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR  
PSYCHICAL RESEARCH**

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief are necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the Society so far as appears from our examination of those books. We have examined the above Balance Sheets and annexed Income and Expenditure Accounts which are in agreement with the books of account. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given us the said accounts give the information required by the Companies Act 1948 in the manner so required and the Balance Sheets give a true and fair view of the Society's affairs at 31st December 1954 and the Income and Expenditure Accounts give a true and fair view of the Society's revenue transactions during the year ended on that date. We have also verified the investments of the General, Research Endowment, Myers Memorial and Blennerhassett Funds.

Idol Lane, London, E.C. 3.  
1 February 1955

MIALL, HARPER & CO.  
Chartered Accountants

**SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS**

	Nominal	Book Value	Value 31 December 1954
<b>MYERS MEMORIAL FUND</b>			
3½% Conversion Stock, 1961 - - - -	£250 0 0	£287 10 0	£220 12 6
3% Savings Bonds, 1960/70 - - - -	750 0 0	819 7 6	716 14 4
		<u>£1,106 17 6</u>	<u>£937 6 10</u>

<b>BLANNERHASSETT RESEARCH FUND</b>			
3% British Transport, Guaranteed Stock 1978/88	1,695 13 1	£1,660 0 0	£1,481 11 7

<b>RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND</b>			
4% Consolidated Stock - - - -	1,460 0 0	£1,699 1 6	£1,401 12 0
3% Funding Stock 1959/60 - - - -	2,300 0 0	2,504 2 6	2,219 10 0
3½% War Stock 1952 or after - - - -	800 0 0	864 0 0	697 10 0
3% British Transport, Guaranteed Stock 1978/88	6,626 1 5	6,472 17 11	5,789 10 7
3% British Transport, Guaranteed Stock 1967/72	514 0 0	539 14 0	476 1 11
3½% Defence Bonds - - - -	600 0 0	670 5 0	600 0 0
3% Savings Bonds 1960/70 - - - -	3,157 9 2	3,449 9 5	3,017 6 11
2½% Australia Stock 1967/71 - - - -	995 2 9	1,040 10 0	885 13 5
2½% Consolidated Stock - - - -	504 3 8	403 10 0	330 4 10
		<u>£17,643 10 4</u>	<u>£15,417 9 8</u>

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
4% Consolidated Stock - - - -	86 11 11	£100 15 4	£83 2 8
3% York Redeemable Stock 1955/65 - - - -	800 0 0	848 0 0	783 4 0
3% Australia Stock 1955/58 - - - -	250 0 0	262 10 0	250 0 0
3% Nigeria Stock 1955 - - - -	1,200 0 0	1,272 0 0	1,215 0 0
3% Savings Bonds 1960/70 - - - -	3,000 0 0	3,240 2 3	2,866 17 6
3% Savings Bonds 1955/65 - - - -	1,664 12 4	1,793 10 3	1,660 9 1
3½% Australia Register Stock 1965/69 - - - -	1,500 0 0	1,567 18 0	1,400 12 6
4% British Transport 4% Guaranteed Stock 1972/77 - - - -	530 11 10	519 16 11	554 9 4
		<u>£9,514 12 9</u>	<u>£8,813 15 1</u>

**SCHEDULE OF DONATIONS**

Parapsychology Foundation Inc.	- - -	£1,000 0 0
Mr Charles Ozzanne - - - -	- - -	411 8 9
Anonymous - - - -	- - -	100 0 0
R.C.D. - - - -	- - -	100 0 0
Mr Brian West - - - -	- - -	2 0 0
Mrs T. S. Dick - - - -	- - -	1 18 6
		<u>£1,615 7 3</u>



### 13. PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY

The Council accepted with much regret Mrs W. H. Salter's resignation as Hon. Editor of the *Proceedings*, a post she had filled with great distinction for thirty years. To mark their appreciation of Mrs Salter's services to the Society, the Council elected her a Vice-President. Mr Edward Osborn, Editor of the *Journal*, was appointed Editor of the *Proceedings* also.

Part 184 of the *Proceedings*, five numbers of the *Journal* and three Supplements of the *Journal* were issued during the year. A revised edition of Dr D. J. West's *Tests for Extrasensory Perception: an introductory guide* was published by the Society in September at 1s. 6d. One copy of the booklet is available free to any member on application.

The sale of the Society's publications to members amounted to £160 0 11, to the public £153 19 9, and in the United States to £58 18 2.

The new edition, published in October 1953 by Gerald Duckworth & Co. at 12s. 6d., of the 1942 Myers Memorial Lecture on Apparitions by the late G. N. M. Tyrrell has been issued in the United States (Pantheon Books, New York, \$3.00). The French and Danish book rights have been acquired by Fasquelle Editeurs, Paris, and H. Hagerup's Forlag, Copenhagen.

### 14. THE LIBRARY

The number of books borrowed during the year by Members and Associates and by the National Central Library was 584. Forty-seven new books were added to the Library, and among these the Council gratefully acknowledge those presented by members and others.

### 15. MEETINGS

#### *Private Meetings*

- 28 Jan. 'The Logic of Statistical Significance' by G. Spencer Brown.
- 4 Mar. 'Has Psychical Research any concern with Astrology?' by J. M. Thorburn.
- 8 April 'A Field Theory of Parapsychology' by Dr G. D. Wassermann.
- 20 May 'Supernormal Faculty and the Concept of Mind' by Professor C. A. Mace.
- 17 June 'A Preliminary Study of the Claims of "Healers"' by Dr Louis Rose.
- 23 Sept. Question Time. A demonstration of stage telepathy given by Mr Jack Salvin, followed by a Brains Trust.
- 8 Oct. 'Spirits and Shamans in Brazil' by Francis Huxley.
- 29 Oct. 'Hypnotism and the Law' by Eric Cuddon.
- 18 Nov. 'A Series of Co-ordinated Experiments with Mediums' by G. E. Vandy.
- 9 Dec. 'Physical and Psychical Research' by C. C. L. Gregory.

## DR L. P. JACKS

The Council regret to record the death on 17 February 1955 of Dr L. P. Jacks, who was President of the Society for 1917-18. An obituary notice will be printed in the June issue of the *Journal*.

## EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Extraordinary General Meeting of Members convened for Wednesday, 23 February 1955, at 3.30 p.m. was held at 31 Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1, THE PRESIDENT, Professor F. J. M. Stratton, in the Chair. There were also present : Mr E. R. Brown, Mr G. W. Fisk, Mr H. E. C. Gatliff, Mrs K. M. Goldney, Miss E. M. Horsell, Mr G. W. Lambert, Mrs L. Longman, Mr W. E. Manning, Mr W. H. Salter, Mr B. Shannon, Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt, Miss V. Williams, and Mr K. Woerner ; also Mr M. Christophersen and Mr Burrill of the firm of Messrs Linklaters & Paines.

The notice convening the meeting was read by the Secretary. The Chairman then proposed the adoption of the Special Resolution, and signed the two copies of the document laid before the meeting :

### SPECIAL RESOLUTION

'That the Articles of Association contained in the document laid before the meeting and for the purpose of identification signed by the Chairman of the meeting be and are hereby adopted as the Articles of Association of the Society to the exclusion of all others.'

A short discussion followed in which Mr Brown, Mr Gatliff, Mrs Longman, Mr Salter, and Mr Christophersen took part. The adoption of the Special Resolution was moved by Mr W. H. Salter and seconded by Mr H. E. C. Gatliff, and passed unanimously. Forms for the registration of proxy votes had been circulated to all Members. 333 were returned, of which 322 were in favour of the Resolution and 11 were against.

NOTE. The new Articles of Association may be obtained from the Secretary, price one shilling.

## MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Meetings of the Council were held as follows :

497th	23 Nov. 1954	Chairman : The President, Professor F. J. M. Stratton.
498th	30 Dec. 1954	Chairman : The President, Professor F. J. M. Stratton.
499th	17 Feb. 1955	Chairman : The President, Professor F. J. M. Stratton.
500th	3 Mar. 1955	Chairman : The President, Professor F. J. M. Stratton.

## MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

*Held at 31 Tavistock Square*

- 272nd Friday, 29 October 1954, at 6.30 p.m. Mr Eric Cuddon :  
'Hypnotism and the Law'.  
273rd Thursday, 18 November 1954, at 6.30 p.m. Mr G. E. Vandy :  
'A Series of Co-ordinated Experiments with Mediums'.  
274th Thursday, 9 December 1954, at 6.30 p.m. Mr C. C. L. Gregory :  
'Physical and Psychical Research'.  
275th Thursday, 24 February 1955, at 6.30 p.m. Mr J. Cecil Maby :  
'The Physical Interpretation of Objective Dowsing and Radiesthesia'.

## NEW MEMBERS

### MEMBERS

*(Elected 23 November 1954)*

- CHRYSLER, K. M., B.A., 14 Herbrand Street, London, W.C. 1.  
DE SILVA, RICHARD, Medical Research Institute, Colombo, Ceylon.  
FALLOWFIELD, MISS B. B., 11 Buckingham Road, Tue Brook, Liverpool,  
13.  
LEES, NELSON C., 250 Gardner Road, Ridgewood, N.J., U.S.A.  
NORWAY, Mrs F. M., M.B., B.S., Langwarrin, Victoria, Australia.  
POWELL, WILSON A., Jr., M.D., 1209 N. First Street, Temple, Texas,  
U.S.A.  
SHANNON, B.D., 407 Nether Street, Church End, Finchley, London,  
N. 3.

### MEMBERS

*(Elected 30 December 1954)*

- BOGGIS-ROLFE, PAUL, Dunolly, Kingsmead Road, Borrowdale, Salisbury,  
S. Rhodesia.  
CHADWICK, A. E., M.A. (Oxon)., Sunnyside Cottage, Woodgreen,  
Fordingbridge, Hants.  
HUNT, Mrs JARVIS, B.A., 153 Colborne St. East, Oakville, Ontario,  
Canada.  
MONTGOMERY, Mrs IAN, 10 Margaret Crescent, Bendigo, Victoria,  
Australia.  
PEARCE-HIGGINS, REV. J. D., M.A., Putney Vicarage, 5 Malbrook Road,  
London, S.W. 15.  
PENNINGTON, JULIAN, Plantation Pipe Line Co., Atlanta, Georgia,  
U.S.A.  
STRUTT, HON. GUY, Aldenham Park, Bridgnorth, Salop.  
WOERNER, KURT, 11 Halstead Road, Wanstead, London, E.11.



*Student-Associates*

RANDALL, JOHN L., 6 Woodcote Road, Warwick.  
SMITH, R. B., Sandcliffe, 9 Seals Road, Donisthorpe, nr Burton-on-Trent, Staffs.

MEMBERS

*(Elected 17 February 1955)*

BROWN, MAURICE H., 5 Gillingham Street, London, S.W. 1.  
CHESSELL, K. J., 6 Dunstons Grove, East Dulwich, London, S.E. 22.  
GORER, GEOFFREY E., M.A., Sunte House, Haywards Heath, Sussex.  
HUCKER, Rev. J. C. A., 6 Victoria Avenue, Finchley, London, N. 3.  
IREMONGER, Mrs Lucille, M.A. (Oxon), 44 Godfrey Street, Chelsea, London, S.W. 3.  
JONES, G. L., M.A., 7 Stumperlowe Mansions, Sheffield 10.  
LANGDON-DAVIES, JOHN, Casa Rovira, San Feliu de Guixols, Spain.  
LIBRARIAN, Battersea Central Library, 265 Lavender Hill, London, S.W. 11.  
LUNDGREN, V. C., 5130 Minnoqua Drive, Minneapolis 22, Minnesota, U.S.A.  
MANNERS, J., 19 Racton Road, London, S.W. 6.  
ODEHNAL, Dr ING. JUAN, Caracas, Venezuela.  
OWEN, A. R. G., M.A., Ph.D., 4 Luard Close, Cambridge.  
PERRY, The Lord, 16 Berkeley Street, London, W. 1.  
ROBERTS, Dr FRANCES A., Rubery Hill Hospital, Birmingham.  
SHARMAN, F. A., 34 Erskine Hill, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London, N.W. 11.  
STEINER, F. G., LL.D., 440 Park Avenue, New York 22, U.S.A.  
WERNERS, P. T., Gravenstraat 159, Paramaribo, Suriname, S. America.

*Student-Associate*

EDWARDS, N. V., B.Sc., c/o Cia. Petrolera Lobitos, Lobitos via Talara, Peru, S. America.

MEMBERS

*(Elected 3 March 1955)*

MARTIN, Cmdr. R. P., D.S.C., 175 Oakwood Court, London, W. 14.  
MUSSO, Dr J. RICARDO, V. Cevallos 1766, Buenos Aires, Argentina.  
SHEARGOLD, R. K., 81 The Avenue, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middx.  
WEBB, Miss M. F., B.Sc., 5A Wimpole Mews, London, W. 1.

A NEW S.P.R. PAMPHLET

A pamphlet entitled *Notes for Investigators of Spontaneous Cases* has just been completed and will be ready in May or June. About sixteen pages in length, it will be a companion to *Hints on Sitting with Mediums* and Dr. West's *Tests for Extrasensory Perception: an introductory guide*. A copy will be sent free to any member on application to the Secretary.









# Society for Psychical Research

31 Tavistock Square · London · WC1

JOURNAL, SEPTEMBER 1955, VOL. 38, No. 685

SUPPLEMENT No. 18

FOR MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at 31 Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1, on Thursday, 28 April 1955, at 3.30 p.m., under the chairmanship of the President, Professor F. J. M. Stratton.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the Meeting, the Report of the Council and the Accounts were presented. After a short discussion in which Mr Denis Chesters, Mrs F. Heywood, Mr E. Osborn, and Mr R. Sproull took part, the Hon. Secretary, Mr W. H. Salter, moved the adoption of the report, seconded by Mrs K. M. Goldney, and the Hon. Treasurer, Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt, moved the adoption of the accounts, seconded by Mr D. Chesters, and these were carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to Mrs Salter was passed unanimously, with much appreciation and gratitude for the work she had done during the long time she was Hon. Editor of *Proceedings*.

The Chairman announced that there were no candidates for election to membership of the Council other than the six members who retired by rotation and who offered themselves for re-election, and on the proposal of Professor F. J. M. Stratton, seconded by Mrs F. Heywood, the following six members were accordingly elected: Mrs K. M. Goldney, Mr G. W. Lambert, Mr E. Osborn, Mr W. H. Salter, Mrs W. H. Salter, and Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt.

On the proposal of Mr W. H. Salter, seconded by Mr A. T. Oram, Messrs Miall, Harper & Co. were re-elected Auditors for the forthcoming year.

## MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Meetings of the Council were held as follows:

- |       |              |   |
|-------|--------------|---|
| 501st | 28 Apl. 1955 | Chairman: The President, Professor F. J. M. Stratton.                               |
| 502nd | 28 Apl. 1955 | Chairman: The President, Professor F. J. M. Stratton, followed by Mr G. W. Lambert. |
| 503rd | 1 June 1955  | Chairman: Mr Denys Parsons.   |
| 504th | 1 July 1955  | Chairman: Mr W. H. Salter.  |

At the meeting of the Council held on 28 April 1955 the following co-optations to the Council were renewed for the year: Mr G. W. Fisk, the Hon. Mrs Gay, Professor A. C. Hardy, Mr J. F. Nicol, Mr A. T. Oram, Mr K. E. Shelley, and the Hon. Charles Strutt.

At the meeting of the Council held immediately after the Annual General Meeting on 28 April 1955 the following were elected:

#### PRESIDENT

Mr G. W. Lambert, C.B.

#### HONORARY OFFICERS

Hon. Treasurer: Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt.

Hon. Secretaries: Mr W. H. Salter, M.A.

Mr Denys Parsons, M.Sc.

Hon. Experimental Research Officer: Dr D. J. West.

#### COMMITTEES

*Finance Committee:* Mrs Goldney, Mr G. W. Lambert, Mr A. T. Oram, and Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt (*Convener*).

*House Committee:* Mrs K. M. Goldney (*Convener*), Miss I. Jephson, Mr Edward Osborn, Mr W. H. Salter, and Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt.

*Physical Phenomena, Poltergeists and Haunts Committee:* The Hon. Mrs C. H. Gay, Mrs K. M. Goldney, Mrs Frank Heywood, Mr G. W. Lambert, Mr E. Osborn, Brigadier C. F. C. Spedding, Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt, the Hon. Charles Strutt, Professor F. J. M. Stratton (*Convener*), and Dr R. Wilson.

*Publicity Committee:* Mr E. Osborn, Mr D. Parsons (*Convener*), and Mr R. W. S. Pollard.

*Research Committee:* Mr G. W. Fisk, Mrs K. M. Goldney, Mr E. Osborn, Mr D. Parsons, Brigadier C. F. C. Spedding, Dr S. G. Soal, and Dr D. J. West (*Convener*).

*Library Committee:* Mr G. W. Fisk, Mrs Goldney, Mr A. T. Oram (*Convener*), and Mr E. Osborn.

#### CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Mrs E. W. Allison

Dr T. N. E. Greville

Dr C. G. Jung

Rudolf Lambert

Monsieur Gabriel Marcel

Dr J. B. Rhine

Dr W. H. C. Tenhaeff

Mr Carl Vett

Dr Th. Wereide

Professor C. J. Ducasse

Dr G. H. Hyslop

Count von Klinckowstroem

Professor Gardner Murphy

Dr A. Tanagras

Dr R. Tischner

Monsieur R. Warcollier

Dr Chr. Winther

## HONORARY ASSOCIATES

Mrs Whately Carington	Miss Carruthers	Mrs L. A. Dale
Dr G. de Boni	Mr G. W. Fisk	Dr B. Humphrey
Mrs Osborne Leonard	Miss M. Phillimore	Mrs K. Richmond
Prof. C. M. Sage	Mr Basil Shackleton	Mr G. H. Spinney
Dr R. H. Thouless	Miss Nea Walker	

## MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

*Held at 31 Tavistock Square*

- 276th Thursday, 17 March 1955, at 6.30 p.m. Mr T. B. Orton :  
‘The Ortona Ray’.
- 277th Thursday, 14 April 1955, at 6.30 p.m. Mr W. G. Roll :  
‘Personality Traits and Extrasensory Perception’.
- 278th Thursday, 12 May 1955, at 6.30 p.m. Dr W. H. Gillespie :  
‘Psychical Research and the Interpretation of Dreams’.
- 279th Thursday, 16 June 1955, at 6.30 p.m. Mrs Oliver Gatty :  
‘Psycho-Analytic Aspects of Telepathy’.
- 280th Thursday, 7 July 1955, at 6.30 p.m. Professor Hornell Hart :  
‘Six Theories about Apparitions’.
- 281st Thursday, 28 July 1955, at 6.30 p.m. Dr J. B. Rhine and Mrs  
L. E. Rhine : ‘Recent research work on “Spontaneous  
Cases” at the Parapsychology Laboratory, Duke University’.

## NEW MEMBERS

### MEMBERS

*(Elected 28 April 1955)*

- BOWDEN, H. T., B.A., 174 Ballards Lane, Finchley, London, N. 3.
- CHAUDHARY, N. H., M.A., 59 Gloucester Road, London, S.W. 7.
- DE TIEL, Mrs E., 65 Whitehall Court, London, S.W. 1.
- HIGGINSON, Mrs W. J., B.A., P.O. Box 1620, Salisbury, S. Rhodesia.
- JACOB, W. C., M.A., Quilon, India.
- KORSIN, Mrs T. J., 66 Westbere Road, London, N.W. 2.
- LIBRARIAN, University Library, Lund, Sweden.
- MACQUEEN, H. R., 65 Strafford Avenue, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex.
- MYLNE, Mrs N. E. A., c/o Bank of Scotland, Piccadilly, London, W. 1.
- READ, Mrs L. A. V., Canons Drive, Edgware, Middlesex.
- ROBERTSON-JUSTICE, J. N., Ph.D., Croft Downie, North Kissock, nr  
Inverness.
- SNOW, ROBERT, F.R.S., Southerway, Dunstan Road, Old Headington,  
Oxford.
- WALKER, KENNETH M., M.A., F.R.C.S., The London Clinic, 149  
Harley Street, London, W. 1.



MEMBERS

(*Elected 1 June 1955*)

- CROOK, PHILIP J., Three Firs, Bramshott Chase, Hindhead, Surrey.  
ELLIOTT, A. G. P., B.Com., 61 Crossfield Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire.  
FERRIER, RICHARD, Villa Ferrier, Kitzbühel, Tirol, Austria.  
GORDON, G. T., G.P.O. Box 2120, Brisbane, Australia.  
HYGEN, DR G., Rektorhaugen 15iv, Ulleval Hageby, Norway.  
MAUDE-ROXBY, MRS J. M., Midelney Place, Curry Rivel, Langport, Somerset.  
PLAYFAIR, MRS J. N. C., 20 Ovington Square, London, S.W. 3.  
WARD, J. P., M.B.E., 120 Wellesley Road, Ilford, Essex.

MEMBERS

(*Elected 1 July 1955*)

- CRAIG, J. G., 605 Clarke Avenue, Westmount, Quebec, Canada.  
DAVIS, MISS G., 44 Chepstow Villas, London, W. 11.  
GOWER, R. C., M.P.S., 10 Brassey Avenue, Hampden Park, Eastbourne.  
HOYTE, C. M. G., M.B.E., P.O. Box 611, Accra, Gold Coast, B.W. Africa.  
PARSONS, C. C., St Paul de Vence, A. M., France.  
SHAW, SEBASTIAN L., Ballintubbert House, Athy, Co. Kildare, Eire.  
WOOD, MRS S. H., 14 Hillcroft Crescent, London, W. 5.

*Student-Associate*

- Veares, A. M., B.A., 17 Wolfe Close, Stanmore, Winchester, Hants.

# Society for Psychical Research

31 Tavistock Square · London · WC1

JOURNAL, MARCH 1956, VOL. 38, NO. 687

SUPPLEMENT No. 19

FOR MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1955

### 1. TERMINATION OF LEASE

IN the Annual Report for 1954, reference was made to the Society's lease of 31 Tavistock Square, due to expire on 24 June 1956. During 1955 continuous search was made for suitable premises within the Society's means. Only one house was found which appeared suitable, but its acquisition depends upon the grant of planning permission for its use by the Society. The application for such permission is being actively pursued.

Meanwhile, terms have been agreed with the ground landlords for the tenancy of 31 Tavistock Square to be extended for a limited period, with the right on the Society's part to terminate it at three months' notice. This extension, which is subject to an almost threefold increase in rent, will not be required if alternative premises can be found and made available by the end of June 1956.

### 2. THE CAMBRIDGE CONFERENCE

As mentioned in the *Journal* for September and December 1955, the Society, with the financial support of the Parapsychology Foundation, and in pursuance of resolutions passed at the Utrecht Conference of 1953, organized a small Conference of persons interested in the investigation of 'Spontaneous' cases. Held in July at Newnham College, Cambridge, it was attended by delegates from ten countries, and was most successful. The Conference recommended that the Society, in conjunction with Societies and individuals in other countries, should organize the collection, verification, and analysis of a large number of cases of this kind.

Much preparatory work is needed to ensure that the enquiry should proceed on the right lines, particularly as it will, when launched, absorb a large part of the Society's energies for some years. Careful

consideration has already been given as to its scope and method, and particularly as to the way in which the various Societies and persons interested could most usefully collaborate. The Council intends as soon as practicable to consult the other parties concerned.

### 3. RESEARCH

Throughout the year Mr G. W. Fisk has been engaged with further ESP investigations, helped by a grant from the Parapsychology Foundation. He is now finishing off the evaluation of a mass ESP experiment using clock-card targets in which subjects were asked to record the variations in their mood from day to day during the experiment. The results suggest that there is a definite relationship between the subjects' scores and their moods. It is hoped that the full report will shortly be ready for publication.

Mr Fisk has also carried out some further tests with Miss S. M., the high-scoring subject discovered in his previous investigations. In this series he has used as targets reproductions of paintings in place of the conventional ESP symbols, and he has varied the targets in order to keep up interest. S. M.'s scores have been high, particularly on those target pictures for which she expressed a liking. The investigation is continuing.

In conjunction with Dr D. J. West, Mr Fisk has started a further series of distance ESP/PK tests with Dr Jessie Blundun, now happily recovered from her illness, acting as subject. In these tests the targets were prepared alternately by the two experimenters, the aim being to find out if the subject's score is affected by the person who arranges the targets and scores the results. The work is to be continued.

Dr D. J. West, working under a grant from the Parapsychology Foundation, has been co-operating with Mr Fisk and has also completed his own investigation of the medical evidence for miraculous cures at Lourdes. During the year Dr West made contact with the President and several members of the International Medical Commission associated with Lourdes, and he also visited the Medical Bureau at Lourdes to study the original documents relating to the cures. His report is expected to be ready shortly.

Mr Denys Parsons, assisted by a Devon member, Lt.-Col. H. C. E. Routh, began an investigation of the claims of Dr Rolf Alexander which will continue in the coming year. Dr Alexander claims to be able to dissipate clouds by mental concentration.

A grant of £50 was made to Mr John Langdon-Davies for expenses in connexion with his ESP experiments with two Spanish girls.

Another grant made by the Council during the year, in value £25, was made to Professor Sir Rudolph Peters, F.R.S., for the investigation of an apparent case of ESP between a mother and her blind child.

The Perrott Studentship in Psychical Research at Trinity College, Cambridge, awarded to Mr Trevor H. Hall for the year 1954-5, has been renewed for the year 1955-6. Mr Hall, one of the three authors

of the report on Borley Rectory, is conducting research into special conditions which appear favourable to the emergence of ESP. The Electors have agreed that, in addition, he shall devote some time during the second year of his tenure to an examination of the physical theory of poltergeist phenomena originated by Mr G. W. Lambert (see *Journal*, June 1955).

As announced in the *Journal* for December 1955, the prize of £50 for an essay on some subject within the field of psychical research has been awarded to Mr William Edward Cox, Jnr, of Southern Pines, North Carolina, U.S.A.

From 3-5 May the Ciba Foundation for the Promotion of International Co-operation in Medical and Chemical Research held a symposium in London on Extrasensory Perception. All but one of those who read papers were members of the Society.

Mr William G. Roll, President of the Oxford University Society for Psychical Research, has assessed by the Pratt-Birge method data obtained from mediums, has conducted an enquiry into certain aspects of the work done at the Delawarr Laboratories, Oxford, has carried out experiments aimed at correlating ESP scores with personality traits and attitudes towards ESP, and has performed some long-distance ESP experiments.

A number of spontaneous cases were reported to the Society during the year. Those which could be followed up were looked into by Officers or members, but with inconclusive results.

#### 4. FINANCE

The Accounts show an over-all surplus of £295 income over expenditure. We are, however, likely to have an increased expenditure for printing in 1956, and a heavy bill for dilapidations in connection with the termination of the lease of 31 Tavistock Square.

The Council, having been advised that the form of the Society's Articles of Association raised difficulties in the way of putting into effect Seven-year Deeds of Covenant for payment of membership subscriptions on which income tax would be recoverable by the Society, convened on the 23 February an Extraordinary General Meeting of members at which new Articles of Association were submitted and were formally adopted by special Resolution. A number of test covenants have been submitted to the Inland Revenue authorities, but the outcome is not yet known. If they are accepted, the necessary forms will be sent to all members resident in the United Kingdom. It is understood that other societies are also awaiting the decision of the Inland Revenue.

The new Articles also widen the range of securities permissible for the investment of the Society's funds, including those of the Research Endowment Fund. The Society's present holdings, after re-investment of certain securities, are shown in the Schedule of Investments on page x.



## 5. THE PRESIDENCY

Mr G. W. Lambert, C.B., was elected President of the Society for the year, and delivered his Presidential Address on 1 December. This will be published in Part 185 of the *Proceedings*.

## 6. VICE-PRESIDENTS

Professor C. D. Broad, Professor Henry Habberley Price, and Professor F. J. M. Stratton were elected Vice-Presidents of the Society.

## 7. THE COUNCIL

Early in the year the Council learnt with great regret that Lord Charles Hope wished to resign. They wish to place on record their sense of the great services he has rendered to the Society by participating in many important investigations. Lord Charles remains a member of the Society. Mr Edward Osborn, previously a co-opted member of Council, was elected in his place.

Brigadier C. F. C. Spedding has been co-opted a member of the Council for the year.

## 8. UNIVERSITY SOCIETIES

*Oxford University Society for Psychical Research.* During 1955 the Society was addressed by Mr C. C. L. Gregory, Dr S. G. Soal, Miss Christina Hole, Colonel K. W. Merrylees, the Rev. Prof. I. T. Ramsey, Mr G. W. Lambert, C.B., Professor H. H. Price, and Mr J. M. Thorburn. The Society's Officers for the year were: *President*: W. G. Roll; *Secretary*: A. P. de H. Collett (till June) and Miss M. S. J. Browne (from October); *Treasurer*: B. M. Currie (till June) and A. P. de H. Collett (from October); *Research Officer*: N. E. Ransome.

*Cambridge University Society for Psychical Research.* During 1955 the Society was addressed by Mr J. C. Maby, Professor C. A. Mace, Dr Louis Rose, Professor C. D. Broad, Dr Ian Fletcher, Dr R. H. Thouless, Mr G. W. Lambert, C.B., and Mr T. H. Hall. A Brains Trust was also held, the panel being Professor C. D. Broad, Professor F. J. M. Stratton, Dr R. H. Thouless, and Dr E. J. Dingwall. The Society's Officers for the year were: *Secretary*: Alan Gauld; *Treasurer*: D. H. McLain (till June) and J. J. Boyle (from October); *Experimental Officer* (till June): Adam Kendon; *Research Officer* (from October): A. D. Cornell.

## 9. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY

During the year 71 Members and 4 Associates were elected. The total loss in membership from deaths, resignations and removals was

75. This results in the total membership remaining the same as last year, which, including Honorary and Corresponding Members (18) and Honorary Associates (14) stands at 1,035.

## 10. PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY

Four numbers of the *Journal*, which went over to quarterly publication at the beginning of 1955, and two Supplements were issued during the year. In December the number of regular (non-member) subscribers totalled 284. The Society has also published a pamphlet entitled *Notes for Investigators of Spontaneous Cases* at one shilling. One copy of this pamphlet is available free to any member on application.

Sales of the Society's publications amounted to £345 3s. 2d.

## 11. THE LIBRARY

The number of books borrowed during the year by <sup>\*</sup>Members and Associates and by the National Central Library was 484. Thirty-nine new books were added to the Library.

## 12. MEETINGS

### *Public Meetings*

- 26 Oct. *Twelfth F. W. H. Myers Memorial Lecture*  
'My First Encounters with Parapsychological Facts and their Philosophical Bearing' by M. Gabriel Marcel.
- 1 Dec. *Presidential Address*  
'The Use of Evidence in Psychical Research' by Mr G. W. Lambert, C.B.

### *Private Meetings*

- 24 Feb. 'The Physical Interpretation of Objective Dowsing and Radiesthesia' by J. Cecil Maby.
- 17 Mar. 'The Ortona Ray' by T. B. Orton.
- 14 April 'Personality Traits and Extrasensory Perception' by W. G. Roll.
- 12 May 'Psychical Research and the Interpretation of Dreams' by Dr W. H. Gillespie.
- 16 June 'Psycho-analytic Aspects of Telepathy' by Mrs Oliver Gatty.
- 7 July 'Six Theories about Apparitions' by Professor Hornell Hart.
- 28 July 'Recent Research Work on Spontaneous Cases at the Parapsychology Laboratory' by Dr J. B. Rhine and Mrs Rhine.
- 6 Oct. 'The Problem of Survival in Modern Thought and Research' by G. Zorab.
- 10 Nov. 'Space, Time, and Consciousness' by J. M. J. Kooy.



## GENERAL FUND (cont'd)



# BALANCE SHEETS (cont'd)

1954	<b>CAPITAL AND ACCUMULATED INCOME :</b>									
£1,711	Balance at 1 January 1955	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£1,761 12 9
51	Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year to date, as per Income and Expenditure Account	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52 8 8
£1,762										£1,814 1 5

## RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND

<b>CURRENT ASSETS :</b>										
£1,566	CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£2,553 1 7
6	INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12 8
—	DEBTOR—J. F. THOMASSON & Co.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20 15 7
£17,643	INVESTMENTS AT BOOK VALUE as per Schedule	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,056 0 5
	(Market Value at 31 December 1955—£12,475 16s. 10d.)									
£19,215										£18,642 5 8

## CAPITAL AND ACCUMULATED FUND :

£19,232	Balance at 1 January 1955	-	-	-	-	-	£19,215 9 5			
383	Add Excess Income over Expenditure for the year to date as per Income and Expenditure Account						404 10 7			
£19,615							£19,620 0 0			
400	Less Contribution to General Fund	-	-	-	-	-				
—	Less Loss on Investments sold	-	-	-	-	-	977 14 4			
£19,215										£18,642 5 8

## GENERAL FUND

1954	<b>FIXED ASSETS :</b>									
£551	OFFICE FURNITURE, ETC., at Cost	-	-	-	-	-	551 9 7			
—	(Purchase prior to 31 December 1946 remaining unvalued)									
—	Additions during year	-	-	-	-	-	23 16 4			
£551							£575 5 11			
£181	Less Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	221 0 7			£354 5 4
—	LIBRARY BOOKS, EXPERIMENTAL AND TECHNICAL APPARATUS	-	-	-	-	-	-			not valued
£370	TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	-	-	-	-	-	-			£354 5 4
<b>CURRENT ASSETS :</b>										
£4,503	CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	-	-	-	-	-	£4,369 7 6			
8	AMOUNTS NOT YET RECEIVED FOR SALES OF PUBLICATIONS	-	-	-	-	-	39 5 5			
43	INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE	-	-	-	-	-	46 10 8			
12	PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE	-	-	-	-	-	28 8 3			
9,515	INVESTMENTS AT BOOK VALUE, as per Schedule	-	-	-	-	-	8,721 17 0			
—	(Market Value at 31 December 1955—£7,316 11s. 2d.)									
—	DEPOSIT ON PROPERTY AT 29 DEVONSHIRE PLACE, W.1	-	-	-	-	-	2,100 0 0			
£14,081							£15,305 8 10			

## LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES :

<b>LIFE MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT :</b>										
£1,176	Balance at 1 January 1955	-	-	-	-	-	£1,260 0 0			
189	Add Life Subscriptions received during year to date	-	-	-	-	-	£42 0 0			
—	Less Refunded	-	-	-	-	-	21 0 0			
							21 0 0			
£1,365							£1,281 0 0			
105	Less Transfer to Income and Expenditure Account	-	-	-	-	-	21 0 0			
£1,260										
—	Balance, being 50% of existing Life Members' Subscriptions	-	-	-	-	-	£1,260 0 0			
—	DONATION FROM PARAPSYCHOLOGY FOUNDATION FOR INVESTIGATION OF SPONTANEOUS PHENOMENA	-	-	-	-	-	800 9 3			
131	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND SPECIAL APPEAL DONATIONS ADVANCE	-	-	-	-	-	97 3 2			
90	SUNDRY CREDITORS	-	-	-	-	-	48 1 4			
£1,481							£2,205 13 9			
£12,600										£13,099 15 1
£12,970	TOTAL NET ASSETS CARRIED FORWARD	-	-	-	-	-	-			£13,454 0 5

# GENERAL FUND (cont'd)

1054	TOTAL NET ASSETS BROUGHT FORWARD	-	-	-	-	£13,454	0	5
970	CAPITAL :							
560	Balance at 1 January 1955	-	-	-	£9,676	11	7	
400	Add Contributions from Research Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	
717	Excess Income over Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	
677								
	Less Excess Expenditure over Income	-	-	-	£109	15	0	£9,676 11
	Loss on Sale of Investment	-	-	-	782	8	10	
								892 3 10
677								£8,784 7 9
	INCOME RESERVE FUND :							
890	Balance at 1 January 1955	-	-	-	£3,058	10	7	
169	Add Transfer from General Fund	-	-	-	1,376	12	1	
059								4,435 2 8
	SPECIAL DONATIONS :							
234	Balances unexpended	-	-	-	-	-	-	234 10 0
970								£13,454 0 5

Note : No account has been taken of Post-War Credits for Income Tax amounting to £2 15s. od.

## REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the Society so far as appears from our examination of those books. We have examined the above Balance Sheets and annexed Income and Expenditure Accounts which are in agreement with the books of account. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given us the said accounts give the information required by the Companies Act 1948 in the manner so required and the Balance Sheets give a true and fair view of the Society's affairs at 31st December 1955 and the Income and Expenditure Accounts give a true and fair view of the Society's revenue transactions during the year ended on that date. We have also verified the investments of the General, Research Endowment, Myers Memorial and Blennerhassett Funds.

MIALI, HARPER & CO.  
Chartered Accountants.

1 Lane, Eastcheap, London, E.C.3  
February 1956

## SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

	Nominal	Market Value 31 December 1955	Book Value
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
3% Commonwealth of Australia Reg. Stock 1955/58 - - - -	£250 0 0	£236 11 4	£262 10
3% Savings Bonds—1960/70 - - - -	3,000 0 0	2,443 2 5	3,240 2
4% Consolidated War Stock - - - -	86 11 11	72 19 1	100 15
4% Conversion (Purchased 21 October 1955) 1957/58 - - - -	1,200 0 0	1,190 12 6	1,194 0
4% British Transport Guaranteed Stock— 1972/77 - - - -	530 11 10	478 11 7	519 16
British Oxygen Co. Ltd. Ordinary Stock - - (Purchased 27 July 1955)	150 0 0	478 0 9	478 0
British Petroleum Co. Ltd. Ordinary Stock units (Purchased 27 July 1955)	75 0 0	403 2 6	509 18
South African Co. 15/- Ordinary Stock units -	93 15 0	478 7 0	478 7
British American Tobacco Co. Ltd. 10/- units -	75 0 0	455 9 6	455 9
Colvilles £1 Ordinary shares - - - -	275 0 0	490 15 9	490 15
General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Co. Ltd. £1 Ordinary Stock units - - - -	30 0 0	388 9 9	388 9
Sphere Investment Trust Ltd. £1 Ordinary shares	200 0 0	603 11 6	603 11
		<u>£7,719 13 8</u>	<u>£8,721 17</u>
<b>RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND</b>			
4% Consolidated Stock - - - -	1,460 0 0	1,230 1 0	£1,699 1
3% Funding Stock 1959/60 - - - -	2,300 0 0	1,807 10 0	2,504 2
3½% War Stock 1952 and after - - - -	800 0 0	613 0 0	864 0
3% British Transport 1978/88 - - - -	3,000 0 0	2,205 0 0	2,929 1
3% British Transport 1967/72 - - - -	514 0 0	463 11 3	539 14
3% Savings Bonds 1960/70 - - - -	3,157 9 2	2,571 7 1	3,449 9
2½% Australia Reg. Stock 1967/71 - - - -	995 2 9	743 17 5	1,040 10
2½% Consolidated Stock - - - -	504 3 8	284 4 5	403 10
Associated Electrical Industries	100 0 0	423 15 0	453 19
Imperial Tobacco Co. - - - -	150 0 0	469 15 9	469 15
Imperial Chemical Industries - - - -	200 0 0	442 10 0	542 11
Burmah Oil Co. - - - -	100 0 0	305 12 6	394 12
British Oxygen Co. Ltd. - - - -	150 0 0	451 0 9	451 0
Aberdeen & Canadian Trust - - - -	250 0 0	314 11 8	314 11
		<u>£12,475 16 10</u>	<u>£16,056 0</u>
<b>BLENNERHASSETT RESEARCH FUND</b>			
3% British Transport 1978/88 - - - -	1,695 13 1	£1,246 6 1	£1,660 0
<b>MYERS MEMORIAL FUND</b>			
3% Conversion Stock - - - -	250 0 0	£191 4 11	£287 10
3% Savings Bonds 1960/70 - - - -	750 0 0	610 15 5	819 7
		<u>£802 0 4</u>	<u>£1,106 17</u>

## SCHEDULE OF DONATIONS

J. Y. Bell - - - -	£2 0 0
Mrs K. Richmond - - - -	2 2 0
Parapsychology Foundation - - - -	999 2 1
	<u>£1,003 4 1</u>

## FILMS, RADIO, AND TELEVISION :

### AN AGREEMENT CONCLUDED BY THE SOCIETY

In 1948 the Society entered into an Agreement with a United States citizen, Mr Robert Musel, for the use of its material in publicity media. In 1951 Mr Musel paid the Society £51 in respect of commission on an article written by him. In 1953 this Agreement was replaced by one with an agency of which Mr Musel was one of the partners. The Agreement gave the agency exclusive rights to the Society's material for films made for television in the Americas.

The agency was not able to produce any films during the period of the Agreement, but paid the Society a total of £399 5s. 6d. in option money.

A new Agreement has recently been concluded with a successor to the agency already mentioned, under which the Society will receive £1,300 for each series of 13 films made. During the period of the Agreement, the Society agrees not to supply its material for films, radio, or television presentation to any other organization in the world. The Agreement contains adequate safeguards enabling the Society to censor or veto scripts.

The Society reserves the right to supply material to other parties for programmes of an educational nature.

The Agreement was drafted by Mr R. S. W. Pollard, a member of the Society's Publicity Committee, and was finally approved by Mr K. E. Shelley, Q.C., member of Council. The Council wish to express their thanks to Mr Pollard and Mr Shelley for their kind assistance.

## MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Meetings of the Council were held as follows :

505th	8 Aug. 1955	Chairman : Professor H. H. Price.
506th	12 Oct. 1955	Chairman : The President, Mr G. W. Lambert.
507th	18 Nov. 1955	Chairman : The President, Mr G. W. Lambert.
508th	25 Jan. 1956	Chairman : The President, Mr G. W. Lambert.

## MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

*Held at 31 Tavistock Square*

282nd	Thursday, 6 October 1955, at 6.30 p.m.	Mr George Zorab : 'The Problem of Survival in Modern Thought and Research'.
283rd	Thursday, 10 November 1955, at 6.30 p.m.	Mr J. M. J. Kooy : 'Space, Time, and Consciousness'.

*Held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W. 1*

Wednesday, 26 October 1955, at 6.30 p.m. *The Twelfth F. W. H. Myers Memorial Lecture.* Gabriel Marcel : 'My First Encounters with Parapsychological Facts and their Philosophical Bearing'.



Thursday, 1 December 1955, at 6.30 p.m. *Presidential Address.*  
G. W. Lambert, C.B.: 'The Use of Evidence in Psychical Research'.

## NEW MEMBERS

### MEMBERS

*(Elected 8 August 1955)*

HUBBARD, A. M., 500 Alexandra Street, Vancouver 4, B.C., Canada.  
LIBRARIAN, RHODES UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, Grahamstown, South Africa.  
THROOP, A. B. C., B.A., 20 Wear Bay Road, Folkestone, Kent.

### MEMBERS

*(Elected 12 October 1955)*

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